



A large, clear water droplet is shown falling from above, suspended in mid-air. It is positioned above a series of concentric, circular ripples on a dark blue surface, suggesting it has just hit or is about to hit the water. The background is a gradient of dark to light blue.

Flow

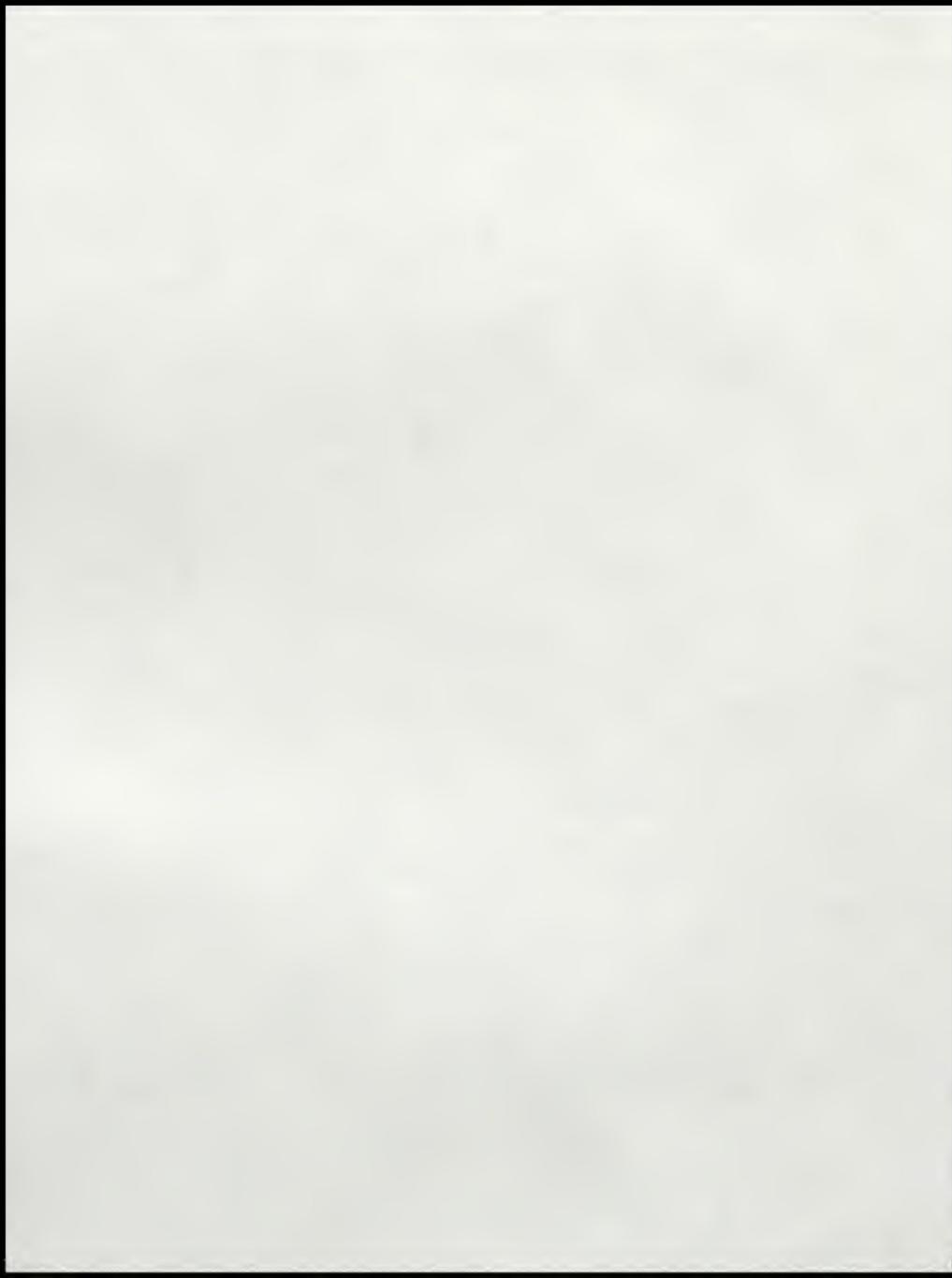
OVERFLOW



TAPES LAST
SUBS & ACTIVITIES
PERFORMING ARTS
AD

SAMPLE LINES
PICTURES 150
MORALS

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INDEX 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
COLORPHON 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
MORALS 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2



Merrillville High School



1. Sophomore Bart Woodward and Junior Lex Paz 2. Seniors Trevy Ramos and Noyan Olcum 3. Seniors Casady Pruitt and Kathleen Szot 4. Junior Kristine Paskash, Sophomores Gina Angotti and Michelle Paskash 5. Junior La Toya Kidd 6. Seniors Brian Jostes and Wade McKinley

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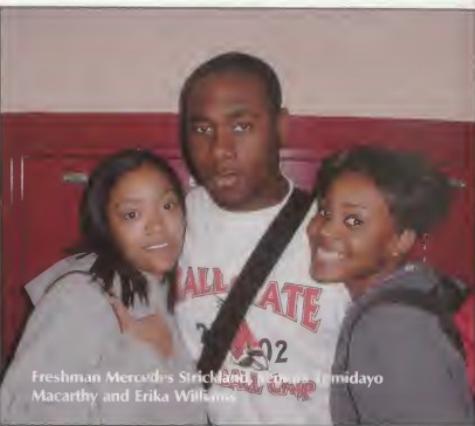
Puddle of Memories



Junior Ricardo Hernandez
and his date, Junior Shannan
Strjewski from Valparaiso



Seniors Will McGinn and
Damara Hamlin



Freshman Mercedes Strickland,
MacCarthy and Erika Williams



Junior Michelle Rodriguez and Pirate fan



Juniors Nicole Stompor,
Lindsey Richards, Jacqlene
Barsich and Jonathan Warus



Junior Amy Wedderburn



Seniors Casady Pruitt, Ethan
Segvich, Peter Brattin, Lisa
Gallimatti and Kat Crotzot



Freshmen Lisa Frazee,
Kelsey Gibson and
Francis



Seniors Demionique Tribay, Cora Gray, Monique Navarro,
Mary Kate Lucas, Brittany Williams and Joseph Frasca



Seniors Adam Sielson and
Rebecca Stephens



Sophomore Kristy Bolker, Senior's Katie Capane, Sam Sharpley,
Tony Shifko, Casady Pruitt, Christine Kiel, Kathleen Corrigan, Jamie
Sweeney, Andy Burl, Lauren Strom and Junior Carol Novell



(Above) Senior Vangel Nacovski, Sophomore Michelle Paskash, Junior Vincent Cole, Sophomores Allison Dyer and Courtney Stephens.

Seniors Dyann Segvich, Timothy Balko, Jordan Gandy and Chris Adams

Junior Lindsey Richards



Merrillville football fans



South Bend Freshman Danni Campbell, Freshman Emily Rodriguez, Sophomore Aegan Stacks, Sophomore Erin Hodge, Freshmen Camryn Hollingsworth and Ashly Thomas, Junior Jenny Mason, Highland Freshman Kris Kornaki, Senior Lauren Strom, Freshman Jessie Francis and South Bend Junior Taylor Campbell

Go With the Flow



Seniors Tony Desard and Kevin Davis



Freshmen girls
Katelynn Coffey, Anna
and Alyssa L. Coopers



Seniors Abby Karr
and Avery Stroko



Seniors Aleksander
Kulinski, Eric Nolan
and Joseph Fraley

Senior Tim Bailey

W

Go to work, hang out with friends, chill at home, do some homework, talk on the phone, get spiffied up for a date, study for that huge quiz tomorrow, win that big game, shop 'til you drop, keep up with the latest style, make time for the family, get online or play around on the computer, have a movie night, go out with your significant other, take a nap, brag about your car, pick out your favorite outfit, play your friends in a huge competition on Play Station 2, an overflow of things to do. MHS Students have so much to do, but only four years to get it all done.



Seniors Michelle Farny, Alyia Farney and
Sophomore Alej Gales.

Freshman Gladys Degard

Why do you choose to be unique in style?

"It defines my personality and helps me stand out from the lines of clones."

Kathleen Hyzy '03



"I woke up like this; it's a swimming thing."

Chris Adams '03



"I just wanted to be different."

Shannon Frey '06



"I wanna be different, but now er'body and they momma got 'em [colored contacts]."

Scottie Julkes '03



"I like it when people look at me."

Jim Kelly '03



Looking like normal teenage girls, Freshmen Heather Zurek, Jessica Gallinatti and Erin Parks wear what they think is stylish. "I see what other people are wearing, and if I like it, I buy it," said Gallinatti.



Sacrificing his pain for his mom, Sophomore Bryant Person displays his tattoo of praying hands.



Express Yourself



Expression: A facial aspect or look that conveys a special feeling.

Many students express themselves in different ways that set them apart from the rest, whether by dying their hair or simply wearing a certain style of clothes. High school is a very influential part of determining who students are and what they will be. Some students even change themselves to show love or appreciation for other people.

"My mom and I were going through a lot of stuff, and I wanted people to pray for her," said Sophomore Bryant Person when asked about his tattoo of praying hands.

Not only do students show their individuality through their physical appearances, but also with their attitudes and talents. Sophomore

Adam Morris expresses himself with breakdancing. His originality reflects his unique personality.

"When you make up your own moves, you kind of put a little bit of yourself in each one," Morris explained.

Team apparel helps athletes show their school support and spirit. The Football Team varies what they wear on game days from their jerseys to tight t-shirts. The Wrestling Team also shows spirit through their clothing, but they usually stick to Merrillville wrestling apparel.

Students have their own way of expressing themselves. What some call "weird" is just unique. However students want to do express themselves, they are trying to show who they are.

Lindsay Warus
Cora Gray

Go with the flow, but be yourself.

Mr. John Jennings — Dumbfounded
Senior Jamie McLaughlin — Flabbergasted
Mr. Tony Bartolomeo — Infuriated
Senior Ricardo Moreno — Nutty
Mrs. Josefina Poropat — Ecstatic

Flaunting his color coordinated threads, Junior Nick Cunningham often refers to himself as the "walking Crayola box."



Trying to look tough, wrestlers Juniors Tommy Vechey and Rob Wahlman, Seniors Brad Woodward, Noyan Olcum, Breon Harris, Paul Kurczynski and Clint Wimmer show team spirit by wearing MHS wrestling shirts on days of meets.



Cars

Various cars flood the parking lot daily, creating a plethora of colors and models.

Leaning on his Camero, Senior Chris Adams is known for having a nice car. Adams likes to use his free time to work on his car to make it go faster.



Hanging his head in disappointment, Senior Jared Byczko stands next to his worn out truck. Byczko always carries jumper cables because he never knows when it will start.

Catching a wave after school, Seniors Jon Gutierrez and Eric Nolan "hang ten" next to one of the biggest cars in school. Many students refer to these monstrous vehicles as a "boat."

A car, for high school students, is not just a mode of transportation; it is a way of life. A student's car shows individuality and responsibility. Once a teen is 16 and 30 days, his time has come to grasp this almighty prestige, a license. This is not just an ID. It is every teen's ticket to freedom. No riding the school bus, getting dropped off by parents or mooching rides from friends.

However, having a car and the money to pay for it are two different questions. Some students work to pay for car payments and insurance. Others split the costs with their parents, and some do not have to pay for anything. However this is achieved, students would sacrifice anything for their cars.

Senior Lauren Strom explains about her pride and joy. "The Taurus is classic, she's been through some hard times with me. I lost her in Indianapolis when Freshman Jessica Francis, Sophomore Megan Stacks and I could not find the right parking garage," Strom said. "It took about four hours, but we finally found her."

The weekends, especially, are a time to show off. Friends often cruise together to find something to do. This is such an influential part of high school, even MTV created a show, FM Nation, for it.

Whether the car is a Beamer or a beater, a teen's first car will always hold a place in his or her heart.

Cora Gray

*"It's not how you stand by your car, it's how you race your car." Edwin Ja Rule.
"The Fast and the Furious"*



What is your dream car?



"1967 Shelby GT 500"
Trevor Hodges '03



"1965 green Mustang fastback"
Sean Sohacki '03



"1970 Chevelle SS"
Jessica Wieneke '03



"2003 Mercedes 500"
Angela Merritt '04



"1949 Cadillac Coupe DeVille"
Crystal Matson '03



Zoom Zoom! Michelle Rodriguez is the proud owner of this speedy, yellow Mazda 6. This is the newest addition to the MHS parking lot.



Sitting next to his car, Senior Vince Torres takes pride in the work he put into his 1978 Pontiac Trans Am. Torres spent a year and a half rebuilding his car by himself.



Sitting on their enormous vehicles, Junior Steve Burke and Senior Jake Appleton tower over the other cars in the parking lot. It is hard to miss them after school as their roaring trucks plow over the pavement.

At Merrillville High School, showing off your ID picture is a new fashion statement. Sophomore Michael Booker shows how boring his outfit looks without his school ID compared to how stunning he looks with his "Pirate pride" around his neck.

New rules and enforcements have changed the dress codes. Before the new dress codes were enforced, Senior Kristina Damjonoska was allowed to wear this "stylin" miniskirt, but now she must stick to the knee-length skirts so she doesn't get sent home.

If there were one thing that you could change about the dress code, what would it be?

"Guys would be able to wear cut-off shirts."

Louis Panayi '04

"The length of our shorts should be our choice."

Elaina Gemelas '05

"We should not have to wear these ID's."

Deniel Dean '03

"We should be able to wear sleeveless shirts as long as they have thick enough straps."

Janel Barsich '06



Out with the old and in with the new! Demonstrating this popular saying, Senior Ronda Friesling models the new and old ways of wearing spaghetti strap tops. Many girls must now wear sweaters to cover their visible shoulders.



Was it a new school or just a new year?

The administration made some changes. The first surprise to students was the new dress code rule: that shirts must have sleeves that cover the entire shoulder.

Some students were upset about this new rule because most of their new school clothes were already bought for the school year.

The new ID policy was the next rule, enforced November 5, 2002. All IDs must be worn around the neck on purple Pirate lanyards.

Students had mixed opinions about the new policy.

**"To change and to change
For the better are two
different things."
German proverb**

"We attend a public school, so we should be able to wear whatever we want. I don't understand why we can't just have our IDs in our back pocket. Why do we have to wear them around our neck?" Senior Brad Woodward asked.

Senior Deniel Dean said, "We need to get rid of these IDs!"

However, other students did not mind wearing their IDs.

"Some rules are understandable, but this is a public school. We should be able to express our individuality!" stated Junior Allison Snyder.

Laura Lackey

Wearing one of her favorite shirts, Senior Liz Gallinatti shows off her great sense of style. Gallinatti later learns that she is no longer allowed to wear the shirt off her shoulders, due to the new dress codes at MHS.



Sagging" is a common fashion of teenage boys at MHS. Proving a point, Senior Steven Marcus gets how hard it is to get to class on time, while "sagging" compared to how quickly he gets to class when his pants are pulled up.



Changes have taken MHS by storm.

Now & Then

Breaking down, Chris P. Bacon* (Senior Bradley Woodward) succumbs to eating his cheese puffs after an invigorating session of watching TV.

**Are You a TV Junkie?
Take this quiz to Find out.**

- 1) On Thursday's, how many different episodes of "Friends" air?
 - a 1
 - b 3
 - c 4
- 2) On "The Simpsons" who shot Mr. Burns?
 - a Bart
 - b Maggie
 - c Smithers
- 3) What city has been used as the location of "The Real World" twice?
 - a Miami
 - b New York
 - c St. Louis
- 4) On "Boy Meets World" what is Cory's little sister's name?
 - a Morgan
 - b Amy
 - c Angela
- 5) In what state is "That 70's Show" set?
 - a California
 - b Michigan
 - c Wisconsin

If you answered four or more right, then you are a T.V. Junkie.

Answers: 1) c 2) b 3) b 4) a 5) c.



Got the munchies? For all you TV junkies out there, these are some common snacks.

Mainstream TV and video games are the new wave among teenagers.



Chris P. Bacon* always wanted to be normal, but he couldn't. Not since it happened. It did not happen over night. The symptoms appeared gradually. Friends and family knew he had a problem, but he was in denial. His mother, Marsha Mellow*, was the first to notice the change in her son. His schoolwork starting slipping, and he stopped going to work. On one specific occasion, during a "Brady Bunch" marathon, Mellow claims her son recited the show's dialogue for an entire two hours to himself without missing a beat. Once Bacon was aware of his mother's presence, he became infuriated and turned violent. He sprung from the chair leaving only his imprint behind. His mother knew there was only one place he would turn to for refuge: the kitchen. Mellow was led to her son

by the trail of cheese puffs. She watched him rummage through the pantry while he repeatedly said, "You don't understand. You could never understand!" With tears in her eyes, she could see the lost little boy she used to know behind the mask of cheese. At that exact moment they both knew this was rock bottom, and it was time to get help.

Hard work has a Future payoff. Laziness pays off now.
Russ

This is just one example of an innocent life devoured by television. Teens across the nation have developed

an addiction, an addiction to TV. More and more youths spend their time inside watching TV or playing video games instead of playing outside. Whatever happened to friendly games of football, walks to the park or just hanging around outside?

Cora Gray & Brittany Williams



Watching the Brady Bunch Marathon, Chris P. Bacon* (Senior Bradley Woodward) is completely consumed by the addictive television.

Darting upstairs toward the kitchen, Chris P. Bacon* (Senior Bradley Woodward) is followed by his concerned mother, Marsha Mellow* (Susie Woodward).

What is your favorite TV show?



"Friends"
Carol Newell
'04



"The Simpsons"
Kwame Asabere
'03



"Gilmore Girls"
Ronda Fruhling
'03



"Friends"
Milorad Trkulja
'05



"MTV 2"
Derek Roldan
'03



**Growing up,
what was your
favorite
Halloween
costume?
"Superman"
Michael Scott '06**



**"Gwendela"
Julie Trimble '03**



**"Carlos Santana"
Bobby Gonzalez
'05**



**"Bride of
Frankenstein"
Xiomera Vega
'06**



**"The Ninja Turtle
Raphael"
Jon Gutierrez '03**



Moo-v ing through the hallway, Junior William Urban shows that he is "utter"ly into Halloween.

Bringing a little heaven to earth, Junior Gracile Madison displays her innocent side.



Halloween

Who says we're too old to drop by and trick-or-treat?

Carving a pumpkin, choosing a costume, and deciding where to trick-or-treat launches the madness associated with Halloween night.

Kids infiltrate neighborhoods in search of "the Holy Grail" or candy on this anticipated evening, October 31. Nothing can prepare home owners for what they must encounter, high schoolers.

Many MHS students remain young at heart and continue their annual tradition of trick-or-treating.

Senior Jaclyn Hac agreed, "Even though I'm older, I still want to act like a kid as much as I can."

"I'll bet living in a nudist colony takes all the fun out of Halloween."
Author Unknown

Once again on this renowned day, an assortment of costumes, which were almost not allowed at school, livened the halls. Each unique costume reflected the imagination and creativity of its wearer.

Freshman Bryan Ruder commented, "I went trick-or-treating to get lots of candy. I also get to dress up and act stupid for the day."

No matter the age, 8 or 18, nothing takes away the excitement experienced on Halloween night.

Dyann Segvich
Lindsay Warus

Too early for Thanksgiving, but just in time for Halloween, Sophomore Justin Little wears his costume.



On the prowl, Seniors Jamie McLaughlin and Lindsay Warus look "purr"fect in their mischievous cat costumes. McLaughlin and Warus never miss the chance to go trick-or-treating.

"Yeah baby!" Showing off his "shagadelic" costume, Junior Nick Cunningham grooves down the hallways as Austin Powers.



A New You

Guys and girls alike constantly change their appearance to follow this new wave of style.



Biding her time, Senior Mary Kate Lucas reads a magazine while waiting for her highlights to be finished. "I've been highlighting my hair since I was 13, so it's kind of a way of life," Lucas stated.

Getting a makeover from Merle Norman consultant Vicki Byrom, Senior Cora Gray remains motionless while blush is applied. Getting a makeover is often common before dances.

In today's society, people constantly try to change their appearances for various reasons. Some people change in order to fit in. Some people change to model themselves after actors, singers and other celebrities. Some simply change to feel better about themselves. In a society dominated by tanning beds, hair dye and colored contacts, rarely are people completely natural.

Senior Brittany Williams stated, "I highlight my hair in order to bring out its natural color and add a little spice."

Jamie McLaughlin, a senior, stated, "I got my nails done for Homecoming, and after that, I just kept getting them done."

This trend, however, is not only

for girls. Guys and girls alike constantly change their appearances to follow this new wave of style. But, dying hair, tanning and wearing colored contacts are not the only ways to change one's appearance.

Although it may seem a little old-fashioned, in comparison to this new wave of style, working out and lifting weights are ways most people change their looks.

Senior Joey Frasca stated, "I work out to increase my athletic talent; however, it also gives me a sense of self-confidence."

Whatever the reason may be, people try hard to present themselves in the best possible way, and that trend is something that will continue for awhile.

Monique Navarro



Applying her tanning lotion, Senior Diana Hughes prepares to fake-'n-bake. Tanning has become popular among high school students and adults.



What do you do to change your appearance?

"I go tanning to look better." Kim Shapley '03



"I think dying my hair makes me fit in." Steve Burke '04



"Dying my hair makes me look fly." Donnie Metlowski '03



"I like being a blonde rather than a brunette, so I highlight my hair." Heather Zurek '06



"I believe I look hot in my colored contacts." Ronnie Pedroza '05



Taking out her colored contact, Senior Vanessa Rodriguez shows the difference between her natural and fake eye color. Many students wear colored contacts even if they do not need a prescription.

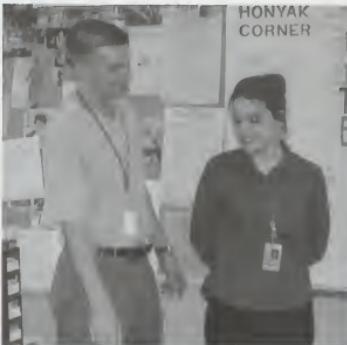


Showing off her manicured acrylic nails, Junior Laura Lackey prefers fake nails to her natural nails. Lackey explained, "They prevent me from biting my real nails."

Sharing ideas, Mr. Don Baron and Mrs. Amber Baron look at a stack of papers. They are one of the three married couples at MHS.



Standing in front of their lockers, Junior Jeannelle Moreno talks with Seniors Cynthia Gonzalez and Brittny Stocia about after-school plans. These three have become very close because of swimming.



Who do you go to when you have a problem?

"My girls, because I've known them forever." Michelle Farley '03



"My boy, Greg Hill, because he is cool." Joseph Williams II '06



"My boyfriend, Jerimiah Ashe, because he is also my best friend." Rebecca Longacre '04



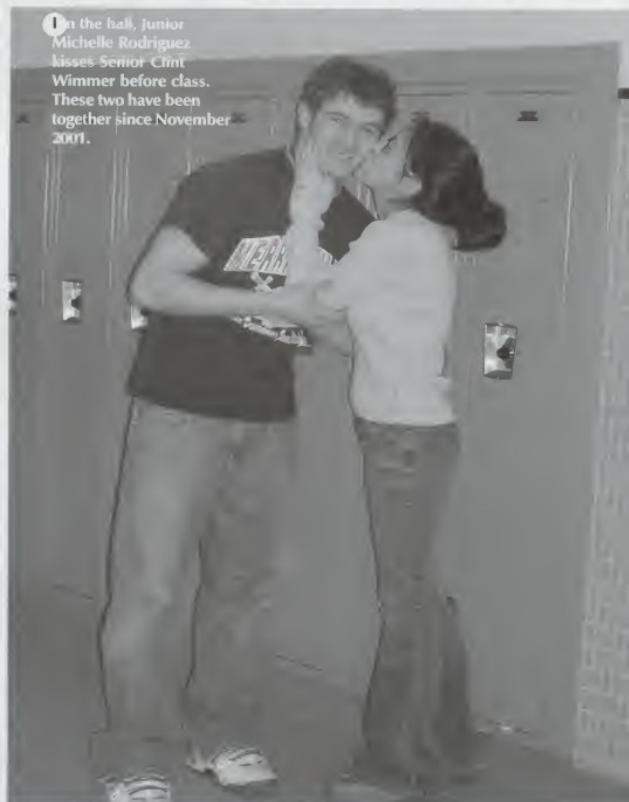
"Mr. Zimmerman, because he is easy to talk to." Brian Jostes '03



"Mrs. Sulich, because she is not just a counselor, but also a friend." Michelle Paskash '05



In the hall, Junior Michelle Rodriguez kisses Senior Clint Wimmer before class. These two have been together since November 2001.





Enjoying their half day together, Sophomores Kris Simonovski, Andrew Pritt, Alex Gates, Bart Woodward and Junior Steve Burke take a moment to pose for the camera.



Getting mistaken for each other is normal for twins. For Seniors Claudia and Arlinda Nava-McCain and Greg and Alex Hernandez, it happens all the time. "It's gotten to the point where I don't even care and just go with what they call me," stated Arlinda.

"We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere."
Tim McGraw

Throughout high school everyone finds a special someone who changes his or her life just by being a part of it. Some will remember role models or teachers, while others will remember friends, siblings or first crushes. These people are there when obstacles arise or when laughter is uncontrollable.

Many advantages come along with having a sibling at school. They provide comfort, advice and sometimes even a ride. Even after siblings graduate, their advice is never forgotten. Junior Brandon Mosley remembers the advice his brother gave him during his freshman year.

"I remember when I was about to fight at school, my brother knocked some sense into me and said it's not worth getting in trouble," stated Mosley.

Other than family, many students will never forget the friendships they have made in school. Some will remember the football games or

after-school clubs, while others will never forget the memories made outside of school.

"Sitting around and laughing when my boys would prank people is something I'll never forget," said Sophomore Alex Gates.

For some, high school is quickly coming to an end, and for others, just beginning. One thing that they have in common is that they will never let go of the memories.

"I'm going to miss my friends from high school next year. It has been a good four years of meeting new people as well as having life long friends," stated Senior Michael Berta.

When the year comes to an end, students look back at all the memories they have created. Some may be more memorable, but most will never be forgotten. Wherever students go in life, they will always have the memories and years together at MHS.

Lindsey Gabriel
Lindsay Warus



Sticking together through thick and thin

Relationships

Purple & White Nostalgia

Faces may fade, but memories will last forever

Showing Sophomore James Reitz his place in the book, Senior Joshua Diaz helps out a friend in class. The Diaz family moved to DeMotte before the school year started. He said, "I wanted to stay here because we have a good sports program. I like the teachers and I didn't want to lose my friends."



With gratitude, Junior Ashley Dallas receives help from her favorite teacher and MHS alumnus, Mr. Tony Bartolomeo. Mr. Bartolomeo's dedication to the school is evident by his return as a teacher and a coach. He said, "To me, Merrillville is a home with good times and good people."

Needing help with class decisions, Freshman Aaron Hindson looks to get help from his guidance counselor Mrs. Michelle Sulich. Merrillville counselors communicate with one another to help the students.

Some cannot wait to say goodbye, and others cannot seem to stay away. The majority of the students have spent more than half their lives with the Merrillville Community School Corporation. Some students experience that contagious syndrome many call senioritis.

If students had the chance to start over and go somewhere new, would they go? Senior Joshua Diaz had the chance, but decided to stay. Last summer Joshua's family moved to Kankakee Valley. Diaz said, "I didn't want to start at a new school."

Diaz chose to use his senior rights and remained at MHS.

"I wanted to stay with people I have grown up with and have known since kindergarten," Diaz said. "I love the sports systems here, from the soccer field to the swimming pool."

This was a hard decision for Diaz to make. The drive from home to school takes 30 minutes.

As a 1994 graduate, Mr. Tony Bartolomeo, a science teacher said, "MHS is home to me. I like the kids that are here. The students and staff are what make me want to stay here!"

Mr. Bartolomeo said little has changed since he was a student here nine years ago. "The only fact is that there are more rules and policies," he noted.

Soccer Coach
Mr. Brian Past has had offers from West Lafayette and Crown Point to coach and teach, but he remains here.

"I enjoy teaching with the English Department from the academic point. From the athletic point, I have the best athletic support in the state of Indiana," he said.

He added, "Most of all, I enjoy the quality of the students in the classroom and on the soccer field."

Laura Lackey

*"For some, life lasts a short while, but the memories it holds last forever."
Laura Swenson*



What will you remember about MHS?

"Football!"
Ayodeji Macarthy
'06

"Basketball!"
Karen Davis '03

"Teachers and the Nacho Plate"
Deniel Dean '03

"Seeing my friends all the time"
Jamie McLaughlin
'03

"My teacher Mrs. [Shelley] Kavois"
TaNesha Logan '05

Who says there is no school spirit at MHS? With the Pirate mascot, Senior Lauren Strom proves this theory wrong as she sports her Pirate gear as many students do.



Hanging out at lunch, Seniors Kara Lux, Megan Pawl, Eric Morris and Bradley Woodward show that friendship is a big part of what Merrillville means to people. Lux said, "I will always remember the talks I have had with all my friends here."



A Merrillville Community School Corporation employee for 35 years, Mr. Tom Feeney once said he "bleeds purple." He retired after the 2002-2003 school year, after teaching countless students the rudiments of math. Mr. Feeney coached cross country at the middle school for 30 years and track for 27 years. He likened retirement to a paradox and said, "I know I'll miss the stimulation of being with different people every day, but I am looking forward to getting into a different lifestyle."

What Merrillville means to you

Pirates Reign



Sophomore Jake Apelbaum and Junior Tegman

Sophomore
Katie
O'Leary
and
Freshman
Morgan
Zulch

Junior
Nicole
Staropoli



Sophomore Gina Argenti

Sophomore Cindy Trapani
and
Senior Lindsey
Shepp



Senior Adam Stoltz



The 2003
Varsity Purple
Squad

Senior Geoff
Lito and
Freshman's
Samantha
Gomes



Sophomore Doug Kowalewski

Senior Jim Giamone



**Junior Jerry Williams, Senior
Jared Speck, Junior David
Murray's Sophomore Audrie
Rosen, Senior PEPPI Johnson,
and Sophomore Michael Brink.**



Freshman Morgan Cull



**Senior Eric Karsznak
and Freshman's junior
Matt Lachance**

Sprint across the finish line, putt it in for par, make a dash for a touchdown, fire one by the goalie, serve hard for the ace, spike for a kill, swish the net, tumble for a ten, glide through the water for the best time, pin down the opponents, smash a grand slam, clear the hurdle with ease, cheer on the Pirates, spice up the half-time show, a rain shower of sports to play.



**The 2003 Fall
Cross Country Team**

**The 2003
Track Team**



Freshman Gina Howard



**Senior Emilie Vreeland and Griffith's junior Jamie Lam
Senior Brittany Williams**



CRUISING X

MHS boys' Cross Country Team has attitude and determination to win

Hard work and determination to improve on last season's record drove the boys' Cross Country Team during the 2002 fall season.

"Basically, the 2001 season was a disappointment for us," explained Junior Cliff Cook. "We didn't make it out of sectionals. We were looking to improve and redeem ourselves. We also wanted to do it for Coach," Cook added. "He works so hard to push us to the next level."

Along with the desire to improve their performance, team members also wanted to attract more runners.

"Our goal was to get more people to come out," Cook explained. "And this year we doubled the team numbers."

Team members not involved in other sports trained during the winter and the summer three days a week, determined to improve their performance.

According to Junior Ricardo Hernandez, "We were of a mind that we were going to get out of sectionals."

He also added, "The score was close. We were one point over Hobart and Andrean."

"After the team came in fifth at the Crown Point sectional, the team was pumped for the regional," Hernandez said.

"We didn't do as well," Hernandez commented. "It was windy and we ran the race early in the morning."

"We weren't disappointed," he added. "We were happy for the way the season went."

Team MVP Hernandez quoted, "Next year we are going to be on top. We'll be one of the top dogs. We have people who want to be the best for the good of Merrillville."

Vince Torres



Staying ahead of the opponent, Junior Ricardo Hernandez picks up the pace. Hernandez was named MVP of the team this year.

Teammates of Senior Andrew Leicht know his strength is his ability to sprint at the end of the race and finish strong.

Attempting to pass a Valparaiso runner on the two-mile stretch is Junior Cliff Cook. Cook earned the Most Improved award after this season.



Sophomore Brett Skrupa and Freshman Kevin Wilson often ran together during the season. Wilson finished the season competing on varsity.

SCOREBOARD	
OPPONENT	SCORE
Gov't	7th Place
T.F. South Invite	9th Place
Portage	L 46-15
Rensselaer Central	
Hobart/Michigan City	
*Hobart	L 30-22
*Michigan City	W 43-20
New Prairie	19th place
Valparaiso/LaPorte	
*Valparaiso	L
*LaPorte	L
Highland Invite	8th place
Crown Point/Chesterton	
*Crown Point	L 44-19
*Chesterton	L 44-19
Hobart Invite	2nd place
Lemon Lake (Sectionals)	4th
Lemon Lake (Regionals)	6th
DAC Record	1-6

Pirates Versus



Before the start of the LaPorte/Valpo meet, members of the Merrillville team await the "bang" from the starting gun.



Pushing each other, Junior Cliff Cook and Senior Eric Barcenas run side by side to finish the race. Barcenas transferred from Bishop Noll Institute. The duo worked together and ran each race side by side.

Setting his own pace, Sophomore Matt Crane does his best to keep a steady pace. The 2002 season was the first season Crane ran for the Pirates.



The fastest freshman in the DAC and in MHS history, Justin Floyd, works hard to stay ahead. Justin ran a solid second throughout the season.

After running a hard race, Junior Ricardo Hernandez turns to see the end of the race, as Senior Alycia Fortney congratulates Senior Michael Hill on a good race.



Focusing on the finish, Senior Pauline Petruch shows her determination. Petruch advanced to regional competition and was named the team MVP.

Never giving up, Juniors Katie Wilson and Natalie Weall prepare for the last dash to the finish. As juniors, Wilson and Weall provided experience to the Pirates.



Hearing the sound of the gun, the Lady Pirates start the race as a pack during a meet against Portage. The team gained unity as the season progressed.

Pacing her steps, Senior Jamie Sweeney strides toward the finish line. Sweeney uses cross country as a preparation for the track season.

KICKIN' CROSS COUNTRY

The girls' Cross Country Team goes the distance



Drawing strength from within, Junior Megan Lacny endures the difficulties of the race. Lacny improved with every race over the two-mile course.

Trying to improve with every meet, Sophomore Dana Bolden concentrates on the race to the finish. Bolden hopes to continue improving in order to make an impact next year as a junior.

Exhausted at the end of the two-mile race, Senior Claudia Nava-McCain catches her breath after a meet against Valparaiso. Nava-McCain has dedicated four years as a Pirate runner.

Pirates Versus

OPPONENT	SCORE
Quad Meet	3rd Place
GAA Invitational	7th Place
T.F. South Invitational	12th Place
Portage	L50-15
Conservatory Central Invitational	4th Place
Hobart	L34-21
Michigan City	L46-17
New Prairie	28th Place
Lakeview	W 31-24
Valparaiso	L50-15
Higleyland Invitational	11th Place
Green Point	W 15-50
Chesterton	L43-20
Hobart Invitational	6th Place
DAC Meet	7th Place
Sectionals	6th Place
Season Record	2-5
DAC Record	2-5

Always striving for the finish, Sophomore Sarra Kwell and Junior Chrissy Leus push themselves to keep going. Kwell was named the Most Improved runner and Leus was awarded the team Mental Attitude Award.

Adrenaline pumps through the runner's veins as sweat pours down her anguished face. The finish line comes into view as her heart pounds harder and harder in her chest. Even though her body is drained of all energy, she reaches deep down to make that final kick to the end of the race. The girls' Cross Country team experienced this feeling as they strode to the finish line.

Despite minor aches and pains, this well balanced team of seniors and underclassmen did not let their goals waver during the season. The team's goals included improving their individual times as well as cheering everyone on until everyone crossed the finish line.

Senior Jamie Sweeney commented, "Throughout the course of the season, our attitudes improved, and we just felt more confident in our running. Though it took hard work and dedication, at the end of the season everyone was happy with what they achieved, and the team just came together as a family."

Senior Claudia Nava-McCain also added that the team's greatest accomplishment was improving their times. Nava-McCain stated, "There were people who ran in the twenties last year that are running in the teens this year."

As the season progressed, the team's confidence increased tremendously, which boosted their overall performance. Senior Pauline Petruch led the way in tough times for this tight-knit group in the tough Duneland Athletic Conference. Even though the team did not go as far as they wanted to, the hard work and dedication involved in cross country paid off.

Dyann Segovich

Being the top player, Junior Jacqlene Barsich attempts a great shot. Barsich's leadership guided the team to improvement.



Pirates Versus

Improving takes hard work, determination and patience. The girls' Golf Team had all of these things working for them this year. Playing in the Duneland Conference means that competition will be tough. The team put up good scores against tough competitors like Crown Point, Chesterton and Valparaiso.

Led by new Coach Mike Hamacher, the girls focused on the little things this year. They spent most of their time improving their short games and course managing abilities. A large majority of their practice time was anchored toward putting and chipping the ball close to the hole from around the greens. According to her teammates, Junior Jacqlene Barsich provided the team with some experience, which she used to help other members of the MHS team prepare for matches.

Mid-season highlights included some incredible shots by Barsich and Sophomore Megan Frasca. Coach Hamacher realizes that this year "tested his patience," but feels that the team will only improve for next year. With everyone returning, look for the Pirates to be a real force next season.

Ryan Zurek

'GIMME' GOLF

New head coach helps girls get in the swing of competition

SCOREBOARD

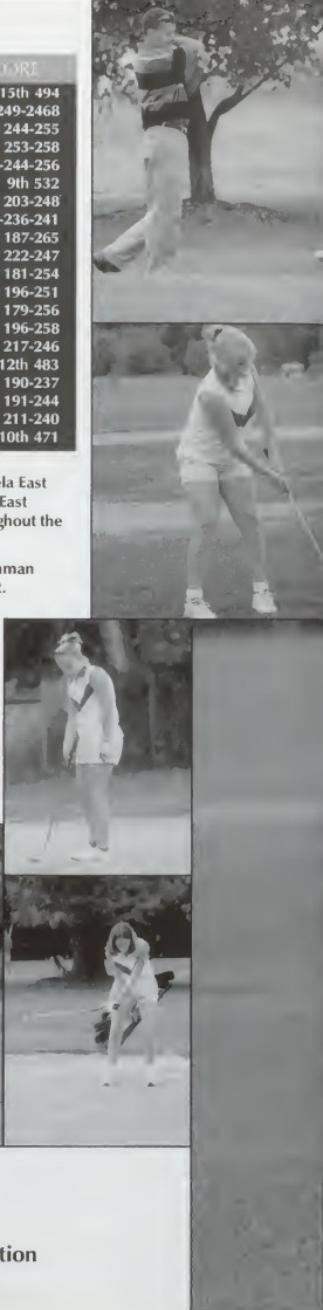
OPPONENT	SCORE
KV Invite	15th 494
Bishop Noll	249-2468
Boone Gray	L 244-255
Wheeler	W 253-258
Lowell/N. Newton	L 211-244-256
Chesterton Tourny	9th 532
LaPorte	L 203-248
Munster/Calamet	W-L 204-236-241
Chesterton	L 187-265
Michigan City	L 222-247
Crown Point	L 181-254
Kankakee Valley	L 196-251
Valparaiso	L 179-256
Andrean	L 196-258
Hobart	L 217-246
LaPorte Invite	12th 483
Hanover Central	L 190-237
Portage	L 191-244
Lake Central	L 211-240
Sectionals	10th 471

Practicing the "chip shot," Freshman Angela East shows her skills. As a starting freshman, East continued to help her team succeed throughout the season.

Preparing to put the ball in the hole, Freshman Ashley Washburn concentrates on the shot. Concentration played a major role in the success of the team.

Hitting out of a bunker is one of the hardest shots in golf. Sophomore Julie Fabian tries to improve her skills by making a great shot.

Aiming for the hole, Sophomore Megan Frasca finishes her swing. Frasca was a key player for the varsity team.



Improving his team's skills, Coach Mike Hamacher shows Sophomore Julie Fabian how the correct swing should look. Hamacher's coaching skills helped the team improve.



As she prepares to tee off, Freshman Tamara Gaddy concentrates on her shot. Teeing off was an important part of tournament play.



Shooting away, Freshman Rachel Hayes hopes for a great shot. Her long drives helped lower her score.



As she prepares for an important shot, Freshman Janel Barsich concentrates on lining her ball up with the hole. Barsich continued to have many great shots throughout the season.

Squinting through the sunlight, Junior Jacqlene Barsich tries to find the right line to jar the ball in the hole. Putting is one of the most important aspects of golf.

Trainers Sean Hudson and Kim Hurysz show Tony Sablan how to care for injured players. The trainer's room became a second home to Seniors Abrego, Nava and Tegtman.



Contributing to Merrillville's 20-10 victory, Senior Chris Harris tries escaping from Lake Central's Nick Boddle to gain yards for the first down.



Getting ready to return a punt, Senior Eric Morris carries the ball up the field to bring them closer to the end zone for one of his eleven touchdowns.

Following a tradition, Senior Captains Temidayo Macarthy, Joey Frasca, Paul Kurczynski and Jeff Abrego show unity and togetherness while walking out onto the field for the coin toss.



Charging toward their opponents, Seniors Temiday Macarthy, Joey Frasca and Junior Rob Wahlman work hard to defend their line.

Pirates Versus

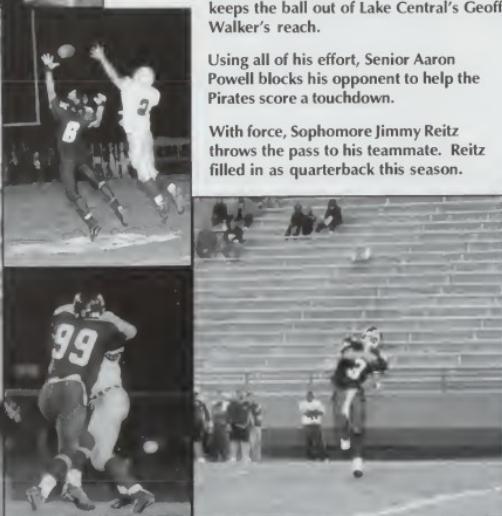
OPPONENT	SCORE
Lake Central	W 20-10
McCormick	L 38-14
Crown Point	L 34-27
Portage	L 28-14
Michigan City	W 35-0
LaPorte	L 24-0
Valparaiso	L 36-6
Hobart	W 17-11
Chesterton	W 36-12
Lake Central (Regulars)	L 14-13
Season Record	4-6
DAM Record	3-4
JV Record	5-4
Freshmen Record	5-3

Breaking away from the defenders, Junior Brandon Mosley races down the field while Senior Adam Tegtman prepares to block Lake Central's Dale Murzyn.

Jumping for the ball, Senior Eric Morris keeps the ball out of Lake Central's Geoff Walker's reach.

Using all of his effort, Senior Aaron Powell blocks his opponent to help the Pirates score a touchdown.

With force, Sophomore Jimmy Reitz throws the pass to his teammate. Reitz filled in as quarterback this season.



This year, the Pirates had the team, the talent and the determination. Then, misfortunes made them realize that sticking together is the main key to a football team.

Head Coach Jeff Yelton agreed that working together is what a team is all about.

"Considering all the obstacles with injuries we had to overcome, the kids did a great job working together and never gave up on one another," stated Coach Yelton.

Sticking together became crucial when those injuries knocked out key players.

With a hurt knee, Senior Jeff Abrego still played while Seniors Ryan Nava and Adam Tegtman watched from the sidelines.

"Getting hurt senior year was depressing especially since we had just started to click," Tegtman explained.

Stepping up, Sophomore Jimmy Reitz feels it was a learning experience to fill in as quarterback. He will remember it as something he both did and did not want to do.

"When Coach told me I was going in, I was shaking in my boots," Reitz said with a laugh.

As the season came to an end, thoughts for next season filled the minds of those who will be returning. However, the thoughts for the seniors were different. Many were overwhelmed at the thought of walking off the field for the last time.

Senior Joey Frasca said with a sigh, "It was sad knowing it was the last game of high school and the end of an era playing with these guys."

Lindsay Gabriel
Lindsay Warus

FIERCE FOOTBALL

Injury plagued season forces Pirates to become closer

STAR-STUDDED SOCCER

So close, but not quite there

Despite a victorious prior season, the 2002 Pirates were thought to have no chance to return to the Final Four State Championship in Indianapolis. Most area teams had their eye out for them and were ready to take the team down. The Pirates started the season off with a record of 6-0, but then a loss to Lake Central sparked a three game losing streak for the team.

However, no one gave up hope. In fact, Coach Brian Past and the team chanted out "FOCUS, B.T.S (Back to State)" before everygame and at halftime. The boys fought through injuries and losing streaks as they stampeded over the path directed straight through sectionals, regionals and semi-state right back down to Kuntz Stadium for the second consecutive year. Senior Jon Gutierrez elaborated, "Despite losing state, we all came together as a team and left as a family. It's hard when you are forced to hang up your cleats after being so close to a dream of winning state."

Several injuries plagued the team to damage their egos throughout the fall, with the most severe to Seniors Jared Byczko, Eric Nolan and Martin Cole. Senior Captain Martin Cole explained, "Despite all of the injuries that we endured during the season, the team united both off and on the field to pump up the morale and spark the flame of desire to dominate."

Although the high school careers of 17 seniors ceased on November 2 after the first round of State against North Central, they ended with a commanding 20-5 season.

The season was a great success overall; the team accomplished several goals as well as earned respect. The team kept a running list of goals throughout the season, falling short of only three: walking away from Kuntz Stadium as State Champions, winning the Duneland Athletic Conference and going undefeated. They did, however, receive no red penalty cards, take the Sectional, Regional and Semi-state titles, win all games played on their home field and make it back to the Final Four.

Senior Captain Peter Brasovan, the Pirate goalie, said, "I feel that we left a tradition unlike any other. How many kids can grow up saying they won three sectionals, three regionals and two semi-state championships. I will never forget those guys and the legacy we left at M.H.S. and in Northwest Indiana."

Kate Santeramo



With Lafayette Harrisons' Robbie Brigham, Randy Ristam and Pirate Senior Igor Ristevski on his tail, Senior Captain Vangel Nacovski charges toward the goal. Nacovski ended the season with 48 goals and his high school career with 162.

Leaping for a header, Senior Captain Jared Byczko tries to "win it in the air." Byczko was a crucial member of the midfield.

After making one of his 161 saves of the season, Senior Captain Peter Brasovan clears the ball from the six-yard box. Brasovan managed a record-breaking nine shutouts within the teams' 25 games in 2002.

Making his routine crossover, Senior Nick Miles psyches Harrisons' Billy Tartar out. Miles often worked the ball to advance past several opponents.

Wide open and ready to play, Senior Igor Ristevski receives a pass from one of his 24 teammates. He knows that with his focus, the reception would not go overlooked. Ristevski played with leg injuries throughout the season, but his steady play remained strong.

Eager to handle the ball, Junior Jason Kendera battles to win a 50-50 ball with Harrisons' Clay Cook. Kendera was one of the few non-seniors to start for the Pirates.



Without letting up, Junior Vincent Cole attempts to create some offense as Nate Kelsey keeps an eye on him. V. Cole definitely held up to his two brothers', Martin and Darnell, reputations.

Dribbling out of the defense, Senior Captain Martin Cole makes quick moves as Harrisons' Nate Kelsey observes. Cole, named defensive MVP, was elected for Second Team All-State for the second time.



Stepping to the ball, Senior Brian Nienhaus looks to attack the goal. Nienhaus was a key player in the Pirates' success throughout the years.

SCOREBOARD

Pirates Versus	OPPONENT	SCORE
	West Lafayette	W 5-1
	Whitney	W 7-0
	LaPorte	W 2-1
	Lakeland Christian	W 10-1
	Plymouth	W 4-0
	South Bend City	W 4-0
	Lake Central	L 3-1
	Chesterton	L 2-0
	Valpo	L 2-2 (shootout)
	Mishicot City	W 7-1
	Lake Central	W 2-1
	Crown Point	W 7-0
	Lafayette/Harrison	W 6-2
	Lafayette Jefferson	W 2-0
	Hobart	L 1-1 (shootout)
	Andrean	W 7-1
	Portage	W 1-0
	Munster	W 3-2
	Lake Central (Semi-State)	W 2-1
	Hobart (Semi-State)	W 2-0
	Munster (Regional)	W 2-1
	SB St.Joseph (Semi-State)	W 3-0
	Warsaw (Semi-State)	W 6-1
	North Central (State)	L 2-0
	Season Record	20-5
	DAI Record	4-3
	JV Record	8-5-2



The 2002 team takes pride in its trophy and in each other after the boys secured the sectional title for the third year in a row.

Boys' Soccer

Sprinting past Griffith Sophomore Rosie Sendejas, Freshman Alyssa Wachter strides vigorously to gain control of the ball. Wachter was one of many freshmen on the girls' varsity team that lent a helping hand.

Pirates Versus

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Andrean	L 6-1
Elkhart Central	W 4-2
LaPorte	W 3-2
Chesterton	L 8-1
Valparaiso	L 7-1
Griffith	W 5-4
Michigan City	W 3-0
Highland	T 4-4
West Lafayette	L 7-1
Crown Point	L 6-2
Munster	L 5-2
Hobart	W 5-0
Highland	W 5-4
S.B. Riley	W 2-1
Portage	L 5-0
Lake Central	L 5-1
Kankakee Valley (Sectional)	W 3-0
Valparaiso (Sectionals)	L 8-2
Season Record	8-9-1
DAC Record	3-4
JV Record	1-12



Psyching out the defenders with a swift move, Junior Shay Kuzma avoids defenders Abigail Hinchy and Alicia Kielbasa of Griffith on her march to the goal. Kuzma was a crucial player in the starting line-up.

Maintaining a tough defensive position, Freshman Alison Conquest shields off Sophomore Star Sepulveda of Griffith. Conquest learned quickly and helped fortify the midfield position.

Keeping an eye on the ball, Senior Brittany Williams blocks off Griffith Sophomore Charlotte Joseph at a Saturday home game. Williams, one of the team captains, was the leading scorer with 17 goals.



SIZZLIN' SOCCER

Dedication drives team onward as the young players mold into a mature group



Streaking up the sideline, Sophomore Kim Jansen clears the ball out of her zone and away from the tough Chesterton offense. Jansen was a key member of the Pirates' defensive scheme.

Tied up as they go for the ball, Junior Mallory Homola uses her athletic ability to quickly maneuver around the offensive opponent. Homola's experience in the backfield saved multiple goals against the Pirates.

Whoosh! Blowing by Griffith Junior Jaci Kobeszka, midfielder Emily Czekala streaks toward the goal as she attempts to put her team over the top. Czekala, although only a freshman, was a strong asset for the Pirates.

Sliding for the save, Senior Laura Sopko knocks the ball away from a hard-charging Chesterton player. Sopko's experience and leadership as a captain helped her become a force in the goal and one of the best in the area.



Rain or shine, the girls' Soccer Team practiced every day to improve their overall skills.

"Everybody worked together much better and our overall attitude was better this year than last years'. We conditioned all summer long, with extra running and weight lifting," remarked Senior Deanna Rivera.

Seniors Ronda Fruhling, Deanna Rivera, Laura Sopko and Brittany Williams led their fairly young team to many unexpected victories. The girls' Soccer Team had a good season with an overall record of 8-9-1, and a DAC record of 3-4.

The girls' team, along with head coach Tammy Deel, received a helping hand with the addition of a new JV coach, Kristi Krooswyk.

"She brought a new energy to the team. She had a lot of patience and helped propel us in a positive direction," commented Sopko.

Throughout the season, the team began to show many improvements. They defended their title at the South Bend Riley Tournament and had a convincing victory on Senior Night over Hobart.

The dedication of the girls led them to win the first round of sectionals, which had proven to be a daunting task for the last three years.

Igor Ristevski
Lauren Strom

Shoving off the defender, Sophomore Mandy Madellin uses her strength to take control of the offense. Madellin was a key player in the Pirates' success this season.

Cutting off the opponent, Senior Deanna Rivera tries to gain control of the ball. She was one of four senior that led the Pirates.

Coach David Zimmerman and his Pirates face obstacles every season, and this year was no different from the rest. After losing varsity singles player, David Uremovich, to a move, and foreign exchange student, Florian Aeschimann, to new IHSAA rules, the Pirates rebounded to claim a share of the Duneland Conference title.

Returning varsity players Junior Greg Branda, Senior Tony Stofko, Sophomore Daniel Burkus, and Senior Cole Perkins guided the incoming freshmen and new varsity players Freshmen Drake Branda and Jared Perkins and Junior Josh Donahue, with patience and leadership.

Competing in tournaments in Jeffersonville and Noblesville provided the team with the chance to play new teams and gain experience. Team unity proved important as the Pirates had nail-biting wins over Laporte, Michigan City, and Chesterton 3-2 to clinch a share of the DAC title. "Winning the DAC was our most difficult goal to obtain," commented Coach Zimmerman. The Pirates also will be remembered for beating the area favorite Munster 3-2, the first boys tennis team to do so in MHS history.

In Sectionals, a line-up change for Andrean proved effective as the Pirates fell in the title match 2-3, abruptly ending the Pirates' season. However, the number one doubles team of Senior Tony Stofko and Sophomore Daniel Burkus advanced to Regionals for the Bucs after winning both matches in Sectional play. Stofko and Burkus advanced to the State tournament with regional wins and were named to the First Team All-State. Stofko said, "Going to State with Daniel was an exciting way to end my senior year."

Casady Pruitt

Hitting the ball forcefully, Freshman Drake Branda goes for the victory. Branda achieved the feat of being a freshman on the Varsity team with the guidance of partner Senior Cole Perkins.

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Jeffersonville	Tied for 5th
Noblesville	3rd
Michigan City	L 0-5
Munster	W 3-2
Highland	L 1-4
Chesterton	W 3-2
Laporte	L 2-3
Michigan City	W 3-2
Chesterton	W 3-2
Andrean	W 4-1
Clayton	W 5-0
MHS (Mishawaka)	Tied for 2nd
Lake Central	L 2-3
Valparaiso	L 2-3
Dover	L 2-3
Munster	W 3-2
Hoover (Bentondale)	W 5-0
Bethel (Cincinnati)	L 2-3
Season Record	10-7
DAC Record	6-1
JV Record	9-3

After scoring the point, Senior Cole Perkins and Freshman Drake Branda congratulate each other. At number two doubles, Perkins and Branda contributed greatly to many of the team's victories.

Watching the ball, Senior Cole Perkins waits to see what the opponents will do in return. As an experienced senior, Perkins was a consistent player for the Pirates this year.

After winning the point, Senior Tony Stofko and Sophomore Daniel Burkus give each other a high five to stay fired up. Stofko and Burkus were named First Team All State and also ended the season undefeated in the DAC.



Hitting a powerful serve, Junior Josh Donahue goes for the ace. Donahue was the number two singles player for the Pirates and improved with each match.

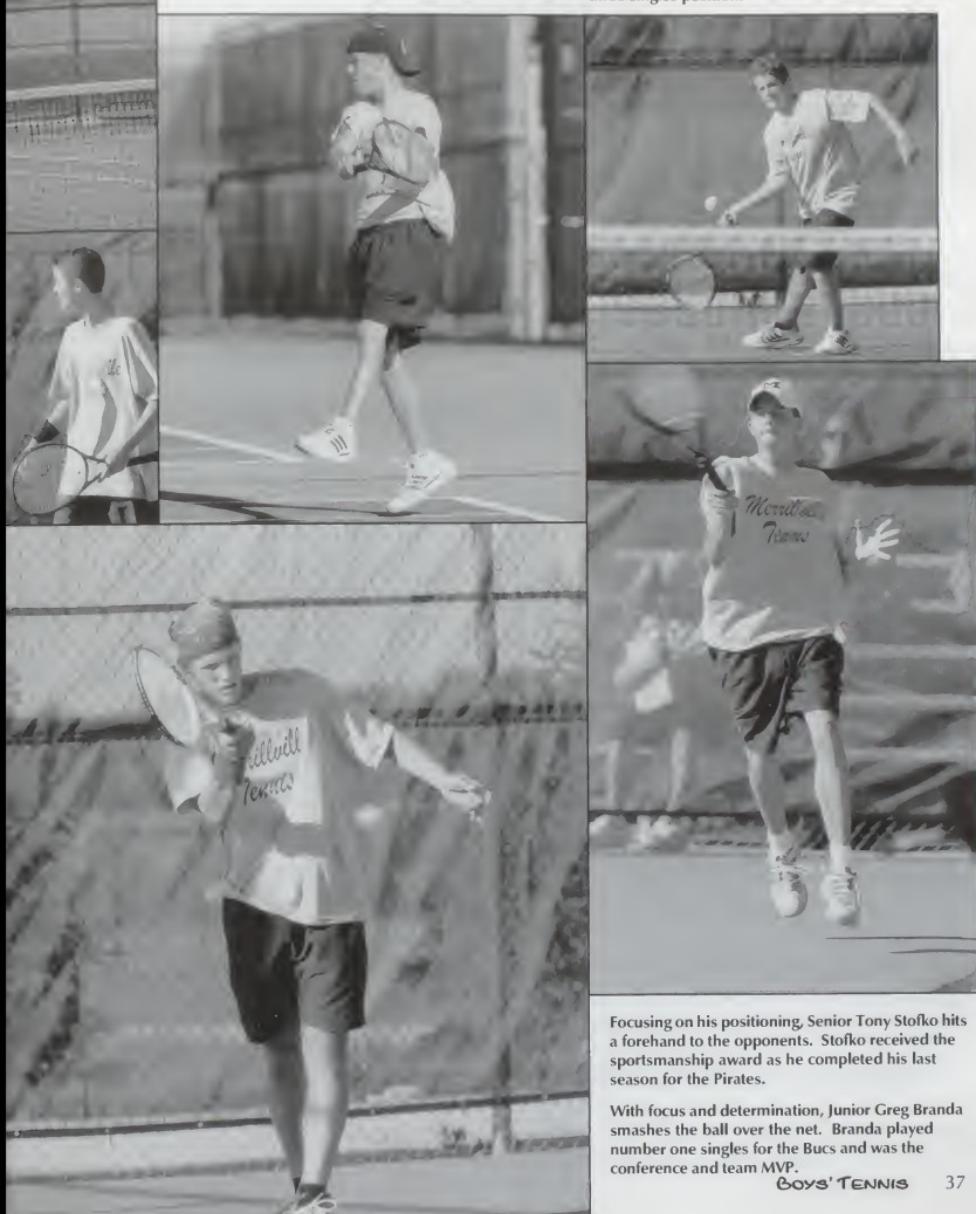


TENACIOUS TENNIS

Dedication drives team onward, as the players rebound after key losses

During a match against Crown Point, Sophomore Daniel Burkus returns a serve. Burkus teamed with Senior partner Tony Stofko to advance to the State tournament.

Reaching down to make the shot, Freshmn Jared Perkins attempts to get the ball back over the net. Perkins made his high school debut playing at the three singles position.



Focusing on his positioning, Senior Tony Stofko hits a forehand to the opponents. Stofko received the sportsmanship award as he completed his last season for the Pirates.

With focus and determination, Junior Greg Branda smashes the ball over the net. Branda played number one singles for the Bucs and was the conference and team MVP.

Jumping high above the net, Junior Tianna Coleman attacks the ball. Coleman was named to the Duneland Athletic Conference team and had 304 kills for the season.

SCOREBOARD

Pirates Versus

OPPONENT	SCORE
Griffith	W 3-0
Lowell	W 3-0
Hebron	W 3-0
Peru	W 2-0
LaPorte	W 2-1
Highland	L 2-1
West Lafayette	W 2-0
Whiting	W 3-1
Andrean	W 3-0
LaPorte	L 3-1
Lake Station	W 3-0
Lake Central	W 3-2
Hobart	W 3-0
Calumet	W 3-0
Bishop	W 3-0
Portage	W 3-1
Concordia	L 2-1
Michigan City Marquette	L 2-0
Warsaw	W 2-1
Chesterton	W 3-0
Hammond Morton	W 3-0
Crown Point	W 3-0
Fort Wayne Elmhurst	W 2-0
Munster	W 2-0
Mishawaka	L 2-0
Valparaiso	W 3-0
Michigan City	W 3-1
South Bend Riley	W 2-0
Highland	W 2-0
Valparaiso	L 2-0
Lowell	W 2-1
Plymouth	W 3-0
Chesterton (Sectionals)	W 3-2
Valparaiso (Sectionals)	W 3-1
Crown Point (Sectionals)	W 3-1
LaPorte (Regionals)	L 3-1
DAC Record	6-1
IV Record	7-18
Freshman Record	12-15



Diving to save the ball, Junior Amy Wedding helps the Pirates defeat the Lake Station Eagles. Wedding, the team's only setter, had 869 assists for the year.

Leaping above the net, Senior Kim Shapley blocks the ball against the Lake Station Eagles. Shapley played the middle hitter/blocker position this year.



Aggressively jumping above the net, Senior Christine Aloia "stuffs" the ball back into the opponent's face. Aloia had an 86% blocking percentage for this year. She also received the Best Mental Attitude award as well as team MVP.



Reaching for the ball, Junior Carol Newell prepares to hit during the Lake Central game. Newell led the Pirates with 310 kills this season, and she was named Co-MVP of the Duneland Athletic Conference.

Staying low to the ground, Senior Liz Gallinatti prepares to pass the ball during the Lake Station game. The Pirates easily defeated the Eagles with scores of 21-6, 21-10, 21-5.

Three-year varsity player, Heidi Hammond, a junior, passes the ball up to the setter. Hammond, a defensive specialist, had 196 digs this season.

With perfect form, Senior Monique Navarro, prepares to pass the ball. Navarro, a defensive specialist, helped the Pirates defeat the Lake Central Indians.



With high fives and smiles, Junior Amy Wedding, Senior Kim Shapely, Junior Carol Newell, and Seniors Liz Gallinatti, Christine Aloia, and Monique Navarro celebrate after earning a point during the Lake Central Game.

VICTORIOUS VOLLEYBALL

MHS Volleyball Team wins sectional title and captures a share of the DAC VOLLEYBALL

"SIZE DOESN'T MATTER!" This motto signified that the team would be successful even though they lacked the height that many other teams possessed.

Nothing hindered the Pirates' goals throughout the season.

"We worked hard to prove to people that we could achieve our goals despite the lack of height," explained Junior Carol Newell.

This motto proved to be true as the Pirates went undefeated in their first six games. Their first defeat, however, did not stop the Pirates from working hard in the games that followed.

The DAC loss to LaPorte motivated the team to defeat the remaining conference teams. Also, when the team played Lake Central, a team that had beaten them for the last three years, they showed their determination by pulling out a 3-2 match victory.

After the Pirates won three games against Chesterton, Valparaiso and Crown Point, they regained their title as sectional champions. Next came the regional match where they would face LaPorte for the third time this year.

Senior Christine Aloia stated, "We felt confident going into the game because we had split the games during the season. It just came down to which team was the strongest."

This volleyball team fought hard during the game, but unfortunately, the team was not triumphant in what turned out to be the team's last game of the season.

Despite the loss at regionals, the Pirates still ended the season as DAC Co-Champions and sectional champions.

Mary Kate Lucas

BLAZIN' BASKETBALL

Young team comes together at the right time

"This was a season like none other," described Senior Captain Igor Ristevski. This year, the Pirates felt a field of emotions as the up and down season could easily be compared to any roller coaster at Great America. Although the roller coaster season may have been a learning experience for the younger players, to the team's four seniors, the season was a lesson in leadership. Guards Ristevski and Chris Harris, along with Center Geoff Lalic and Forward Dave Coughlin, provided guidance in the closing moments of many tough games. Almost every game came down to the wire, including a few that stretched into overtime. However, the clutch and talented play of Sophomore Josh Mayo and Junior Lavell Cook kept the Pirates on top during many of the tense moments.

Things never seemed to completely come together until sectionals came around. With a tough opening game against Valparaiso, followed by a nail biter against Chesterton, the Pirates started to find their rhythm. Then, in the sectional championship game, the Pirates were able to overcome a tough first half to defeat Crown Point for the title. But the story doesn't end there.

As the underdog, the Pirates came into Michigan City the following weekend. The overlooked team was deemed by sportscasters to be quickly ousted by EC Central. That was not to be, as the Pirates played intensely and pulled off the "upset." The win put the Pirates in the regional championship game that night against favorite South Bend Riley. Again, led by Mayo's 33 points, the Pirates pulled off the victory in the most dramatic fashion, with two buzzer beaters. The first came from an unexpected Junior Dezmon Jackson, and the second came from Freshman Greg Hill, who completed a three point play for the classic victory. But the story doesn't end there.

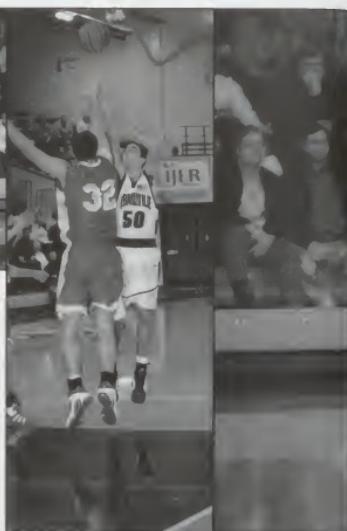
The following Saturday, about half the population of Merrillville High made the trip to the semi-state in Lafayette. Playing against their toughest opponent of the season, Dekalb, the Pirates rallied late from a 19 point deficit to pull within 7. Only in the final two minutes were the "cardiac kids" finally defeated. Coach Jim East handed many praises down and said, "Even our fans were awesome...some of the best that Merrillville's ever had." In retrospect, the team has nothing to hang its head about. "This team, I think, exceeded a lot of people's expectations," said Lalic. Losing only four seniors this year, the Pirates look primed to top this year's accomplishments and begin next season right where this one left off.

Ryan Zurek



Using his quickness, Senior Chris Harris drives down the baseline past Andrean defender Junior Pete Trgovich. Known for his athleticism, Harris contributed to both ends of the floor for the Pirates.

Stretching over Andrean Senior Brett Goins, Junior Bojan Jovanovic shoots for two. From last season to this season, Jovanovic successfully made the transition from junior varsity to varsity.



Splitting the Munster defenders, Sophomore Josh Mayo uses skill and quickness to run the offense. Mayo was vital to the Pirates' success.

OPPONENT	SCORE
Highland	W 64-49
Munster	L 53-50
Andrean	W 61-58
Michigan City	W 66-52
Gary Roosevelt	L 64-54
Hamilton Southeastern	L 62-41
Franklin	W 58-50
Frankfort	L 78-66
Griffith	L 47-44
Crown Point	W 53-43
LaPorte	W 76-70
Lake Central	W 65-64
South Bend Adams	L 52-30
Holmes	W 62-52
Portage	L 74-62
Boone Grove	W 64-43
Chesterton	L 63-60
Valparaiso	L 61-59 (OT)
East Chicago Central	L 48-41
Penn	W 51-41
Valparaiso (Sectionals)	W 61-58
Chesterton Sectionals	W 47-46
Crown Point Sectionals	W 70-56
East Chicago Central (Regionals)	W 57-53
South Bend Riley (Regionals)	W 69-68 (OT)
Dekalb (Semi-State Final Four)	L 66-51

SCOREBOARD

Challenging his Andean defender, Junior Pete Trgovich, Senior Igor Ristevski prepares to drive down the lane while Senior David Coughlin looks on. Ristevski's experience made him an important leader for the Pirates, especially during post-season play.

Using his body, Junior Lavell Cook penetrates toward the basket against Chesterton defender Senior Kyle Burkholder. Cook was an important asset for the Pirates, leading the team in scoring and steals.



Moving past Munster Senior John Jamicich, Senior Igor Ristevski tries to create a scoring opportunity while Sophomore Jimmy Reitz guards his defender. Ristevski's ball handling and shooting skills led to many victories.

Making a point, long-time Head Coach Jim East fires up his team of Pirates. "Coach always made sure that we stayed focused and determined on our goals," commented Senior Captain Igor Ristevski.

Scrambling after the ball, Senior Geoff Lalic and Sophomore Jimmy Reitz both try to gain possession for the Bucs. As the men in the middle, Lalic and Reitz dominated the play around the basket.

Snagging another offensive board, Senior Karen Davis overpowers Portage Seniors Carly Ristich and Chrissy Kornacki. Davis' aggressiveness helped the Lady Pirates defeat the Indians on Senior Night.

Staying focused on the basket, Junior Marshay Jolly sets up for the perfect shot. Jolly earned the title of team MVP as well as MVP of the DAC this year.



Cheering on the girls, the Lady Pirates and their coaches give the players in the game some encouragement. Hearing applause made the girls push even harder.

Leaping high above their opponents, Junior Tianna Coleman and Senior Karen Davis vie for the ball while Freshman Jessica Gallinatti boxes out.

BOUNCING BASKETBALL

New leadership redirects team's focus

Dribbling down the court, Sophomore Melissa Borom evades her Griffith defender. Borom's quickness allowed her to beat her opponents down the court game after game.



Playing tight defense, Junior Tianna Coleman, Freshman Jessica Gallinatti and Sophomore Melissa Borom attempt to steal the ball from their Griffith opponent.

Scrambling after the ball, Senior Kim Shapley prepares to gain possession. Shapley was one of two seniors who provided the young team with experience.

Splitting the Griffith defenders, Freshman Brittney Moore displays her ball handling skills. As the tallest girl on the team, Moore led the Lady Pirates with the most rebounds and blocked shots for the season.

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT

SCORE

Pirates Versus	Opponent	Score
	Regional	L 54-39
	Winona	L 67-62
	East Chicago Central	W 62-45
	Milwaukee City	L 56-41
	Calumet Point	W 53-29
	Benton Central	L 50-44
	Munster	L 65-54
	LaPorte	W 51-39
	Lowell	W 66-46
	South Bend Riley	W 45-27
	*Elkhart Central	W 53-36
	*South Bend Riley	L 71-52
	Rochester	W 54-52
	Griffith	W 42-23
	Hobart	W 41-39
	Lake Central	W 60-51
	Portage	W 48-43
	Chesterton	L 58-56
	Andrean	W 65-47
	Valparaiso	W 53-46
	Hammond North	W 54-23
	Portage (Sectional)	W 66-54
	Valparaiso (Sectional)	L 55-44

Playing the game is one thing, but playing the game to win is another. This year's Girls' Basketball Team went above and beyond the call of duty. Playing with heart and determination day in and day out, the girls pulled out several wins, while turning heads in the process.

"We wanted people to respect us. The only way to do that was to play hard and win. I think we ended up surprising a lot of people," commented Senior Captain Kim Shapley.

Coming off a disappointing 2002 season, the girls had many obstacles to overcome. One such challenge was learning how to adapt to the new coaching staff. New Head Coach Bob Maicher came into the season optimistic that his team could stay competitive with the best that the area had to offer.

"We came into the season looking to establish ourselves a dominant program in the region and to gain respect from all of our opponents," said Coach Maicher.

Although the girls ended the season with a 13-3 run, the team made sure that the motto "all work and no play" did not apply to them.

"No matter how hard practice was, we still had fun. The coaches knew that we played better that way," remarked Junior Jacqi Barsich.

Coach Maicher stated, "We wanted to have fun while we played. We had practices in the pool and sometimes we had practices where we didn't even touch a ball. It is a long season and we wanted to make sure that everyone stayed energized."

With many key victories, the Lady Pirates headed full steam into the sectional tournament. Resting on the first round of sectionals with a bye, the Pirates gave themselves the opportunity to play for the championship game after easily defeating DAC rival Portage in the second round. Although the Pirates played hard throughout the game, they fell short to the Valparaiso Vikings.

"We were disappointed that we lost," commented Coach Maicher. "We worked all year for this opportunity and we will keep working hard for next year. We don't feel satisfied just making it to the championship game."

Igor Ristevski

Coach Diane Roberts, who celebrated her 30th year of coaching Merrillville gymnastics this year, said "the team set its goals for the season early on." They practiced and performed with the same intensity from the beginning to the end, and there was "no letting up."

The Pirates had an unusually small team of only five girls, three with varsity experience. Roberts felt the team "far exceeded the expectations of the group when we met a 109.5 by midseason," even though critics had their doubts. The team also triumphed with first place victories at the Pirate Pride Invitational and the Lafayette Harrison Invitational, as well as a second place in the Duneland Athletic Conference. The two seniors, Kara Lux and Katie Tanis, were key assets as well as the captains for the Pirates. "It's hard to motivate your team, but as a captain it's your job," said Tanis. Roberts reported that the seniors "had to shoulder the burden of constantly being on top of their game in order for the team to be successful."

Despite this pressure, Lux and Tanis made their way down to the state meet. Although the two advanced to state individually, they were disappointed that the team did not advance. "I knew we did the best we could as a team, and that's all we could ask for," stated Lux. Tanis received a fifth place on the floor exercise. Roberts felt that "the smallness of the team was in and of itself unique, and it showed that every person was as important as the next." Roberts hopes incoming freshmen will continue to train hard in the off-season to contribute to next year's team. One incoming freshman, Mauna Jacobs, "will make an immediate impact on the team," reported Roberts.

Brittany Williams

Blocking off the vault, Senior Kara Lux begins to perform a "double twist." Lux was on the gymnastics team for all four years of her high school career.

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Michigan City	W 102.60-84.425
Lowell	W 102.75-52.80
Hobart	W 106.80-91.05
Elkhart Central	4th 105.975
LaPorte	W 108.00-102.025
Pirate Pride Invite	1st 107.175
Portage	W 106.825-101.10
Chesterton	L 110.00-104.775
Valparaiso	W 107.50-105.575
Crown Point	W 108.10-99.15
Lafayette Harrison Inv.	1st Place 109.50
DAC Meet	3rd Place 106.325
Sectionals	3rd Place 106.50
Regionals	3rd Place 105.90
DAC Record	6-1
DAC Finish	2nd
Season Record	7-1

Pirates Versus



With her back bent and arm reaching out, Sophomore Lindsey Sharp poses during the middle of her floor routine.



Hurdling in the air, Sophomore Taesia Alford is getting ready for an upcoming "tumbling pass" her floor routine. The floor competition is one of four events that gymnasts compete in.

GUTSY GYMNASTS

No room for error.

Performing a "stoop on," Senior Kara Lux puts both feet up and stands on the bottom uneven parallel bar. This season, Lux competed at the state competition once again.



Before the start of the meet, the team comes out for the "march in," which introduces the team players.



On her way up to the balance beam, Sophomore Lindsey Sharp is shown in the position of a "half-on." A sophomore, Sharp performed well for the team this season.

In the air, Senior Katie Tanis looks down at the balance beam so she can land her "3/4 turning pike" cleanly. Tanis finished fifth in the state this year on the floor.



Racing down the lane, Senior Dave Rooda swims the 200 yard freestyle. Rooda competed as one of the team's top distance swimmers.

Twisting through the air, Freshman Scott Stephen performs a one and a half twist during a meet against Crown Point. Stephen added a new dimension to the team as a freshman.



Mentally preparing for his dive, Sophomore Tommy Slivka approaches the edge of the diving board. Slivka proved to be one of the top divers in the area, qualifying for state.

Bombs Away! Primarily swimming backstroke, Senior Tim Balko attempts a forward one and a half dive. The injury-plagued dive team forced various swimmers to fill in during the course of the season.

Displaying perfect form, Senior Josh Diaz takes a breath during the 50 yard freestyle. Diaz decreased his times throughout the season.



Coming up for air, Senior Michael Wadley races to the finish during his 200 yard individual medley. His strong 50 yard butterfly gave him an advantage over the competition.

Pirates Versus

SCOREBOARD

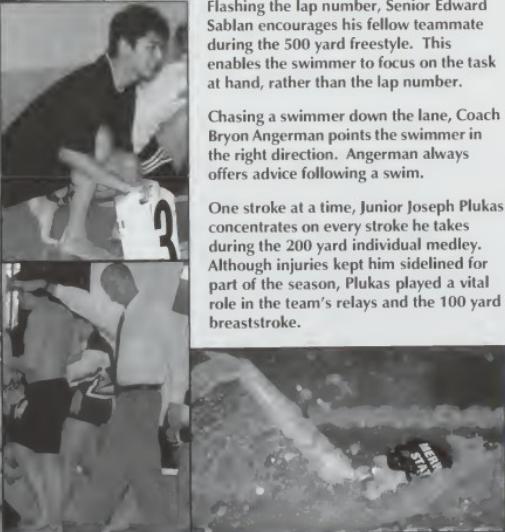
OPPONENT	SCORE
Ferndale	L 112-71
Rosemead United	L 96-87
Munster-Glenview	6th of 6
Hinsdale	L 96-82
Highland	L 121-67
Orland Park	L 112-67
Glenview	L 121-63
LaPorte Invitational	7th of 8
Loyola	W 96-87
Valparaiso	L 132-52
Kankakee Valley	W 118-62
Michigan City	W 96-90
Lafayette	L 104-80
University	L 140-46
DAC West	5th of 8
Monsters	L 120-65
Sectionals	4th of 8

Mentally preparing for a meet, Sophomore Aron Okichich and Senior Florian Aeschmann listen to music and read books. Swimmers prepare in their own ways before meets.

Flashing the lap number, Senior Edward Sablan encourages his fellow teammate during the 500 yard freestyle. This enables the swimmer to focus on the task at hand, rather than the lap number.

Chasing a swimmer down the lane, Coach Bryon Angerman points the swimmer in the right direction. Angerman always offers advice following a swim.

One stroke at a time, Junior Joseph Plukas concentrates on every stroke he takes during the 200 yard individual medley. Although injuries kept him sidelined for part of the season, Plukas played a vital role in the team's relays and the 100 yard breaststroke.



The clock is ticking. The water is splashing all over. The air is hot and muggy. The smell of chlorine lingers in the air. The stands are packed and the fans are screaming. The meet ends and the Boys' Swim Team has just won another meet.

The team worked to improve on last season's record. Meet after meet, the team tried, in more ways than one, to make this season a successful one. In order to achieve personal bests, many boys from the team worked out in the weight room daily, practiced every day and joined the Merrillville Aquatic Club.

The team came up with a motto for the season: "It's not bragging unless you can back it up." This motto helped motivate the boys to strengthen their swimming skills while enduring the long and intense 5 a.m. practices. These practices were definitely a key component in the team's success.

"Hopping into the freezing cold water at 5 a.m. was horrible, but the intense workouts definitely helped to make a major improvement," explained Senior Josh Diaz.

After losing some key leaders from last season, Seniors Tim Balko, Josh Diaz, Florian Aeschmann, Edward Sablan, David Rooda, Chris Adams, Paulo Laorden and Michael Wadley had to step up and be the new leaders. They have worked hard to improve.

Some of the team continues to practice to improve for next year. "Some seniors and underclassmen have joined Team N.I.K.E. [Northwest Indiana Kicking Express] in order to improve," Adams said. "Team N.I.K.E. is a team made up of some of the best swimmers in the area."

Lauren Strom

SWIFT SWIMMING

New motto sparks the Boys' Swim Team to reach new depths

SPLASHY SWIMMING

Young Girls' Swim Team leaves a big splash

The 2003 Girls' Swimming Team had a lot of young faces. Although 12 out of the 32 members were freshmen, the senior members helped pull the group together.

"I'm going to miss all of the seniors. They helped everyone on the team get along," said Freshman Morgan Gill.

This year's team also had a number of freshmen that performed well.

Freshmen Lisa Lumbarkoski, Morgan Gill and Denise Burney all enjoyed much success. Lumbarkoski and Gill each placed in the top 12 in their events at sectionals. They worked hard for their success.

"Many of the girls attended 6 a.m. practices, consisting of either swimming or working out, three days a week," said Head Coach Bryon Angerman.

The team ended their season with a fifth place finish at the Lake Central Sectional Competition. The top finishers for the Pirates were Senior Becky Stephen and Junior Ashley Jones. Stephen placed fifth in the 200 freestyle and fourth in the 500 freestyle. Jones placed fifth in diving just one place short of qualifying for the Regional Competition.

Although the team had no one advance to the State Competition, Coach Angerman was pleased with the girls' camaraderie.

Coach Angerman said, "The girls always put forth their maximum amount of effort. I was very pleased with the girls' performance. This was one of my most enjoyable seasons."

Tim Balko



Swimming in the 100 yard breaststroke, Freshman Morgan Gill shoots past her competition. Prior to entering high school, Gill participated in MAC. Participating in a meet, Junior Ashley Jones carefully executes her dive. According to her teammates, Jones had a successful season.



Waiting for their next race, Senior Rebecca Stephen, Junior Jeannelle Moreno, Senior Cynthia Gonzalez and Senior Brittny Stoica keep each other company. "I have all of my best friends in swimming. It wouldn't be the same without them," stated Gonzalez.

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Lowell	L 102-84
Chesterton	L 140-46
Portage	L 97-88
Rensselaer Central	L 99-84
LaPorte Invite	7th Place
Hobart	W 115-67
Highland	L 121-60
Crown Point	L 130-55
Griffith	W 118-65
Valparaiso	L 140-46
Michigan City	L 114-72
DAC	8th Place
LaPorte	L 124-62
Munster	L 146-40
Sectionals	5th Place

Pirates Versus



To let Freshman Morgan Gill know how many laps are left, the girls' team gathers at the end of the pool to cheer her on to the finish. The team always showed their support at each meet.

Freshman Lisa Lumbarkoski closes in on her competition during the butterfly portion of the 200 individual medley. Lumbarkoski was also one of the team's top breaststrokers.

Girls' Diving Senior Captain Julie Trimble pikes out of her dive in perfect form. Trimble also participated in swim relays.



As she swims the breast stroke, Sophomore Sneza Nacovski races toward the end. This was Nacovski's first year in the Merrillville swim program.

Turning her head for a quick breath, Senior Co-Captain Rebecca Stephen finishes her event. Stephen competed mainly in 200 and 500 freestyle.

Setting up for the shot, Junior Tommy Vechey thinks of a way to gain control over his opponent. Vechey will remain a co-captain in next year's season.

Using all his strength, Sophomore Gary Nelson holds down his opponent for a pin. Nelson improved his skills throughout the course of the year.

Between matches, wrestlers gather together to discuss previous duals and give advice for upcoming matches.

Getting warmed up, Senior Paul Kurczynski practices a side headlock on Senior Breon Harris. The side headlock was one of Kurczynski's favorite moves.

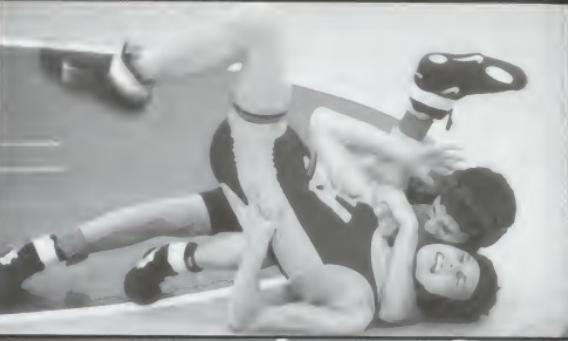
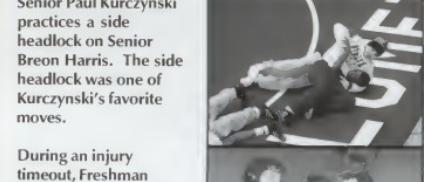
During an injury timeout, Freshman Dexter Larimore gets advice from new Coach David Maldonado and Assistant Coach Rob Petyko.

Taking a break, Junior Rob Wahlman and Senior Paul Kurczynski rest up for their next match. This behavior was commonly seen at all day tournaments.

Goofing around, Sophomore Doug Kurczynski and Juniors Jerry Williams and Tommy Vechey show how wrestlers have fun at meets.



At their last sectional meet, Seniors Joey Jordan, Paul Kurczynski, Breon Harris and Clint Wimmer take a moment to pose for the camera.



Before the final round, the wrestlers lay as a team to show support while throwing in a laugh or two.

WRENCHING WRESTLING

Individual and team records improve with new coach



Trying to get the pin, Freshman Dexter Larimore squeezes with all his might to finish the match. Larimore was a key wrestler on this year's team.

Taking charge, Senior Breon Harris concentrates on winning his match. Harris was one of the four captains who remained dedicated throughout the entire season.

After receiving takedown points, Junior Rob Wahlman remains strong and in control over Highland's Ricky Hanft. Wahlman ended his season at semi-state, when he lost to the state runner up.



Pirates Versus

OPPONENT	SCORE
LaPorte	L 45-27
Valparaiso	W 44-29
Portage	L 41-21
Team Cameron Invitational	2nd Place
Crown Point	W 32-30
La Porte Dual	2nd Place
Munster Duals	2nd Place
Anderson	W 48-24
Lake County Tournament	2nd Place
Michigan City	W 52-30
DAC Tournament	3rd Place
Hobart	W 44-21
Syracuse	2nd Place
Highland Regional	W 33-27
Highland	L 36-30
Geffert	20-6
Saint Paul	5-2
DAC Invitational	

No one knew what to expect from the Wrestling Team this season. Along with their new head coach, David Maldonado, many changes were brought to the wrestling room.

"At the start of the season I didn't know the boys individually, so we set many team goals rather than individual ones," said Coach Maldonado.

Fortunately, the team adjusted well to the changes.

"He made us stronger by teaching us new drills and making our practices harder," stated Junior Tommy Vechey.

Individual improvements led the team to more victories. This year they had 11 wrestlers advance from sectionals to regionals. Feeling proud, their thoughts were strictly about upcoming matches.

However, Senior Breon Harris had different thoughts. After not making weight at sectionals, he saw his dream go down the drain.

"I was really disappointed and wished I could go back in time, but I know I'm still a champion," Harris said.

Wrestling fans will always remember what happened to Harris, but there are also positive things to remember. One example is Freshman Dexter Larimore. He turned many heads with his size and ability at such a young age. He walked onto the varsity team with ease and became a key wrestler.

Was it strictly talent or did it have to do with Maldonado's enthusiasm? Seniors Paul Kurczynski and Clint Wimmer believe their coach had good techniques to loosen up the team, especially the underclassmen.

"Changing coaches senior year was different, but we couldn't have asked for a better environment. We can thank Coach Maldonado for that," agreed Kurczynski and Wimmer.

Lindsey Gabriel and Lindsay Warus

With the loss of so many seniors, this year's Baseball Team knew that they had a long road ahead of them.

"Last year's group had a lot of maturity and innings behind them. This year, there's only one senior with any varsity experience," Head Coach Zac Wells stated. "I knew early on that we would struggle a little bit with the tough competition of the DAC, but our main goal was to improve and peak by the end of the season."

Another struggle that this team had to overcome was the fact that they had only one experienced pitcher.

As far as personal goals, Junior pitcher Jason Plys stated, "I try to pitch hard every game so that we can win."

Plys also stated that he relied on his team's strong defense and offense to help him out.

The highlight of this season seemed to be the triumph over the Valparaiso Vikings. Not only were the Vikings ranked number one in the state at the time, but also the Pirates had to come back from a deficit to pull out a victory.

Senior Eric Morris stated, "We had to reload from all the seniors that we lost, but we've gotten better every game."

In the first round of the post season, the Pirates defeated the Hobart Brickies 6-3. In the second round the team faced the Crown Point Bulldogs. The game went into extra innings as the Pirates were defeated 4-3.

Monique Navarro

After making the catch, Senior Dan Kwiatkoski attempts to throw out the runner at third base. The catcher's job is to be alert and call the plays.

Marking his territory, Sophomore Jimmy Reitz calls out to catch a fly ball. Being only a sophomore, Reitz showed good team effort.

Waiting in the dugout, Seniors Steven Marcus and Nicholas Walter focus on the play during a close game. Team support plays a major role in a teams' success.

Pirates Versus

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT

	W	L	T
Dest Chicago United	11-0	0-0	
Griffith	5-0	0-0	
Burnie Grove	8-6	2-3	
Hammond Marion	8-6	2-3	
Crown Point	13-2	1-2	
Hobart	14-9	1-2	
Valparaiso	8-7	2-3	
Chesterton	11-8	1-2	
LaPorte	4-2	2-3	
Munster Township			
Highland	5-4	2-3	
Crown Point	13-0	0-0	
Michigan City	3-4	2-3	
Portage	(forfeit)		
Lowell	14-3	1-2	
Crown Valley	18-2	0-0	
Hobart	8-0	0-0	
Valparaiso	9-2	1-2	
Highland	8-5	1-2	
Chesterton	4-2	1-2	
LaPorte	2-1	1-2	
Michigan City	6-5	1-2	
Portage	3-2	1-2	
Lake Central	11-0	0-0	
Andrean	6-0	0-0	
Munster	15-4	0-0	
Saint Henry Indians	6-3	0-0	
Saint Henry Indians	4-3	0-0	
JV Record	9-16	0-0	
DAL Record	3-11	0-0	
Season Record	8-19	0-0	



During his might, Senior Jared Dawson prepares to swing on an upcoming pitch. Dawson played both second and third base throughout the season.



BRAWNY BASEBALL

Team overcomes obstacles

Determined to score, Senior Paul Kurczynski listens for the clear from Coach Zac Wells. Kurczynski has played baseball all four years in high school.



Sliding in safely, Junior Jason Plys hussles to beat Chesterton's second baseman. Plys is one of the starting pitchers on the team.



Keeping an eye on the ball, Senior Eric Morris watches a bad pitch go by him. Morris is one of only seven seniors on this year's team.

Trying to keep the lead, Coach Zac Wells brings a few players together to discuss a strategy. This is Coach Wells' second year as head coach of the Pirates.

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Marquette Invite	8th
Lake Central	W 163-175
LaPorte	L 164-165
Valparaiso / Merrillville / Portage	149 / 165 / 174
LaPorte / Merrillville / Hobart	162 / 176 / 197
Kankakee Valley Tournament	3rd
Andover / Merrillville / Edamore	159 / 177 / 196
Portage	L 150-161
Michigan City / Chesterton / Merrillville	153 / 162 / 167
Rensselaer Invite	6th
Boone Grove Invite	1st
Valparaiso / Crown Point / Merrillville	154 / 157 / 166
Michigan City / Merrillville / Hobart	158 / 176 / 215
Wheeling	W 156- 171
Chesterton / Crown Point / Merrillville	164 / 167 / 185
Boone Grove	L 169-170
Duneland Conference Meet	6th
Sectional	4th

Focusing on the shot ahead, Senior Chris Trapane lines up his putter next to the ball. Trapane shot a 35, the best score posted by an MHS player in four years at the Boone Grove Invite.



Keeping on eye on the ball, Senior Tony Stofko and Junior Raleigh Enslen wait for the spectacular shot. Stofko and Enslen were crucial players in the team's success throughout the season.



As he waits for his turn to putt, Senior Ryan Zurek focuses on his shot. Zurek was the team's most reliable player with the lowest scoring average.





Finishing in perfect form, Senior Chris Trapane drives the ball straight down the fairway. Trapane was known throughout the DAC for his long drives.

To avoid stepping in another player's line, Junior Shawn O'Keefe prepares to mark his ball. O'Keefe was a key player for the Pirates with the ability to post a low score in any round.

Chipping for the green, Senior Ryan Zurek aims directly at the pin. Zurek held the number one position for the Pirates through the entire season.



Eyeing his line, Junior Raleigh Enslen awaits his ball to hit the bottom of the cup. Enslen was a consistent player for the Pirates. Enslen managed to shoot an 84 in Sectionals, although he did not advance.



By reading the slope of the green, Senior Tony Stofko prepares mentally to putt the ball. Stofko was the vocal leader, firing up the team before each match.

Even with one of the better teams in recent school history, the Pirates still faced stiff competition from the Duneland Conference, which proved to be one of the toughest conferences in Indiana. Another foe, Andrean, came into the season ranked third in the state and provided the Pirates with the ongoing crosstown rivalry. However, despite the talent throughout the Region, the Golf Team proved it could compete with the best teams in weekend tournaments.

At the Rensselaer Invite, the Pirates shot a four-year best score of 322 and finished sixth, only a few shots behind the winner. A week later, the Pirates won the nine-hole Boone Grove Invite for the first time in school history and Senior Chris Trapane was awarded co-medalist honors for his performance. Trapane also provided the season with an even brighter highlight which included a one-under par round of 35.

A trio of seniors that included Ryan Zurek, Tony Stofko and Trapane led the team throughout the season. Zurek anchored the team at the number one position with consistency and also besting nine holes at 37. Stofko proved a worthy supporting cast for Zurek and Trapane, coming through with 18-hole scores in the low 80s. Juniors Shawn O'Keefe and Raleigh Enslen give the team hope for the future and proved that they could hold their own throughout the season. O'Keefe and Enslen both managed to top the number three varsity position, one that seemed to be cursed all season. O'Keefe performed under pressure with a team best of 78 in an 18-hole match as well as a score of 39 during the season.

In sectionals, the Pirates were expected to advance in the top three positions. The team had many troubles traversing the course as high scores and good competition stopped their drive for the sectional trophy short. The only bright spot of the day was Ryan Zurek, who shot a 79 to move on individually to the regional competition.

Ryan Zurek

GRITTY GOLF
Senior-packed team reaches for improvement

SLAMMIN' SOFTBALL

Young team has attitude and determination to win

"SOFTBALL, SOFTBALL, SOFTBALL!" PNN and Mrs. Debbie Klipper, Secretary to the Assistant Principals, announced this ever so famous expression just before Christmas Break. Conditioning and open gym, where prospective players go for undirected practices, for the team started in early January, during finals week, to pump the team into shape for an arduous season ahead of them. Girls dragged themselves out of bed at five o'clock in the morning a few days a week for two months before the first game.

"We would run stairs and a mile almost every practice for three weeks; it was really hard and exhausting," Senior Monique Navarro said. "I think that you really have to love the game in order to show up and it made us stronger through dedication."

While having fun, the girls focused on their game throughout the season. Junior Heidi Hammond recalled, "The best moment of our season was when [Senior Tiffany] T Smith kept putting her head in the mud. It was hilarious!" However, the season was not all fun, no work. Hammond said, "The team unity was definitely an up for the season, we just needed to achieve our goal, improvement." Overall, the team wanted to do their best; that is all that could be expected. The team did indeed improve. As Junior Kristine Paskash said, "After losing to LaPorte 12-0, it felt really good to come back and beat them the next time we played them 6-0." With hard work, comes pleasure.

When compared to teams like Valparaiso, Lake Central, and Portage, Merrillville's team record of 9-19 was an improvement from the past two years. More wins for one year is always a good sign. With new pitching and old hitting, the team still managed to survive a rough year.

Kate Santeramo

Keeping her hands inside the zone, Sophomore Gina Angotti prepares to turn on the inside pitch. Angotti played various roles on varsity this year including designated player, outfielder and back-up catcher.



Starting catcher Junior Kris Paskash, takes off her helmet and prepares to back up a throw at first base. The catcher's job is to not only call the pitches, but also to back up throws and tell teammates where to throw.

Trying to advance her teammate to the next base, Sophomore Brittany Huish squares around for the bunt. This year was Huish's second year on the varsity team, and she was also the starting centerfielder.

Pirates Versus	SCOREBOARD	
	OPPONENT	SCORE
Griffith	L	5-2
Lake Station	W	12-2
Hebron	W	8-0
Penn	L	8-1
Lafayette Jeff	L	4-1
Brandywine, MI	L	11-1
Crown Point	L	9-3
Boone Grove	W	8-0
Hobart	L	2-0
Valparaiso	L	4-0
Chesterton	L	4-3
LaPorte	L	10-0
Kankakee Valley	W	6-5
Bishop Noll	L	6-2
Michigan City	W	3-2
Crown Point	L	9-6
Lake Central	L	12-0
Valparaiso	L	8-1
Wheeler	W	11-1
Lowell	W	6-0
Chesterton	L	6-0
Munster	L	5-4
LaPorte	W	6-0
Portage	L	3-0
Michigan City	W	10-6
Hobart	L	2-0
Sectionals vs. Hobart	L	3-2
JV Record	10-17	





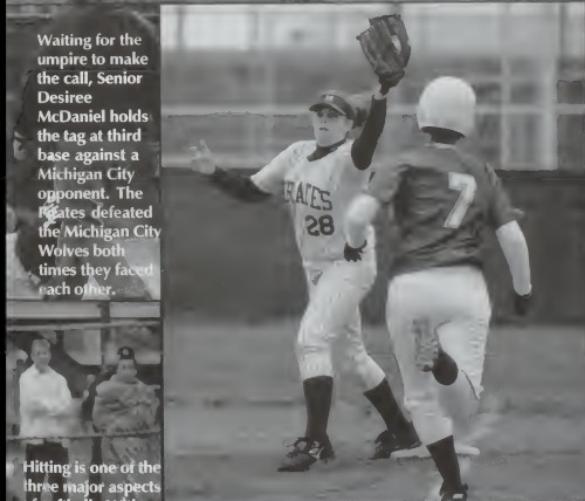
After fielding the ball, Junior Heidi Hammond gets ready to fire to first. Hammond was a three-year varsity starter and one of the top hitters on the team.

Before the start of the inning, Sophomore Megan Stacks, Freshman Heather Zurek, Senior Tiffany Smith, Sophomore Kristy Polster and Junior Heidi Hammond, meet at the pitching mound to plan out their defensive strategy.

Ready to attack, Senior Tiffany Smith waits patiently for the ball. Smith batted in the power hitter spot consistently throughout the year.



Waiting for the umpire to make the call, Senior Desree McDaniel holds the tag at third base against a Michigan City opponent. The Pirates defeated the Michigan City Wolves both times they faced each other.



Hitting is one of the three major aspects of softball. With determination in her eyes, Senior Monique Navarro attacks the ball.

Stretching to catch the ball, Junior Jennifer Mason gets the out at first. Mason, a three-year varsity player, was the starting first baseman.



Determined to pitch a strike, Freshman Heather Zurek releases the ball. Zurek, the only freshman on the varsity team, was one of the two main pitchers this season.

Calling the 2003 season a learning experience is a strong understatement. Led by the region's best singles player, Senior Captain Casady Pruitt, the young Pirates had many things to learn in a short amount of time. With Pruitt prepping herself for another state appearance, she and co-captain Senior Kathleen Szot had many obstacles to overcome. The only two seniors on the team had to work hard to leave a lasting, positive impression on a young team.

"It was evident that we were young, but the girls adjusted well to the line-up changes and that will help them next season," commented Pruitt.

From the end of last year to the beginning of this year, the Lady Pirates worked hard to prepare themselves.

"We had several girls that practiced and played in the off season and we all conditioned before the season started," said Pruitt.

After a state appearance two years ago, the Lady Pirates strived to return to the level of play they knew they were capable of achieving.

"Going to state as a sophomore was a great experience for me. I just wanted the rest of the team to have the same feeling," remarked Szot.

As for the future of the Pirates, the young, energetic team seems to have nothing but hope for next year. With the experience of this year ingrained in their games, players like Freshmen Callie Lucas and Morgan Zellers and Sophomores Katie Coleman and Katelyn Pruitt seem ready and willing to take the challenge of the years ahead. Even with the heart-breaking 2-3 loss in the finals of sectionals to Andrean, the Pirates seemed undisturbed.

"I can't wait for next year," said Lucas. "I've learned so much this year while having fun. I can only see myself and the team getting better."

Igor Ristevski

Pirates Versus

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Highland	W 3-2
Plymouth Tournament	L 4-1
Mishawaka Marion	W 5-0
Rochester	L 3-2
Lowell	L 3-2
Valparaiso	W 5-0
Portage	5th
MHS Doubles Tournament	L 3-2
Lake Central	L 3-2
Chesterton	L 3-2
Hobart	W 5-0
Jasper Invitational	8th
Crown Point	L 4-1
Michigan City	L 4-1
Frankfort Tournament	4th
LaPorte	L 3-2
Sectionals	W 5-0
Gary Roosevelt	L 3-2
Andrean	6-5
JV Record	5-9
Season Record	2-5
DAC Record	

Taking a break from the action, Sophomore Katelyn Pruitt listens to advice from Coach David Zimmerman during a changeover. Pruitt teamed with her sister to win the MHS Doubles Invitational.

After slicing a forehand, Junior Pauline Katsouros strives to win a point against Valparaiso. Katsouros teamed with Senior Kathleen Szot at number one doubles to provide experience for the Pirates.

Deciding where to place the ball, Senior Kathleen Szot bends for the forehand volley. Szot was awarded the team's Sportsmanship award.

Lunging for the ball, Freshman Callie Lucas reaches for the forehand during a point. Lucas teamed with Sophomore Katelyn Pruitt to win the Frankfort Invitational.



TOP-NOTCH TENNIS

Young team gains experience for the future

Attempting a victory, Senior Casady Pruitt aims for the backhand winner. After the team's loss in Sectionals, Pruitt continued to advance into the State tournament.

Going for the ace, Freshman Morgan Zellers serves to her opponent. Only a freshman, Zellers won the team's Most Improved award.

Working together, Sophomore Katie Coleman reaches for the volley while partner Freshman Morgan Zellers moves with anticipation along the baseline. Coleman and Zellers adjusted with ease to line-up changes.



Determined to win, Senior Casady Pruitt slams a forehand across the court to her opponent. Pruitt was named the team's MVP and also the Duneland Conference MVP.

Slapping hands, Junior Pauline Katsouros and Senior Kathleen Szot celebrate a successful point. "We are good at making sure we each stay focused," said Szot.



Warming up for the shot put at the regional meet, Freshman Dexter Larimore follows through on his throw. Larimore finished in fourth place; however, only the top three competitors advanced to state.

SCOREBOARD

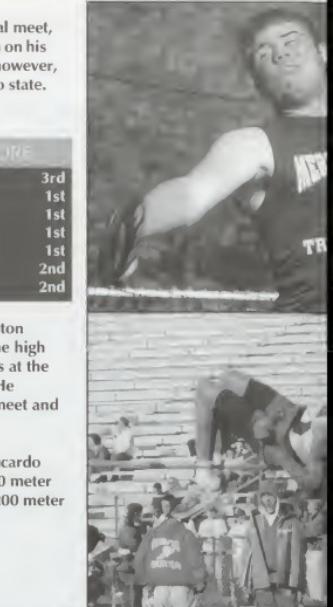
OPPONENT	SCORE
Freshman Invitational	3rd
Kalak Central	1st
Holiday	1st
Chesapeake Relays	1st
Elkhart Michigan City	1st
DAC Meet	2nd
Sectionals	2nd

Clearing the bar with ease, Freshman Carlton Hoyle displays his jumping abilities in the high jump and clears a height of 6 feet 4 inches at the sectional meet, qualifying for regionals. He cleared a height of 6 feet at the regional meet and was unable to advance to state.

Concentrating on the task at hand, Junior Ricardo Hernandez maintains his pace in the 4x800 meter relay. Hernandez also competed in the 3200 meter run at the regional meet.

After finishing the third leg of the 4x400 meter relay, Senior Captain Jared Byczko watches Junior David Morrow finish the race. Byczko also competed in the 100 meter, 200 meter and 400 meter dashes throughout the season.

Striding out during the fourth leg of the 4x800 meter relay, Junior Clifford Cook looks to keep his team in the race. The relay team placed at the sectional meet and advanced to regionals.

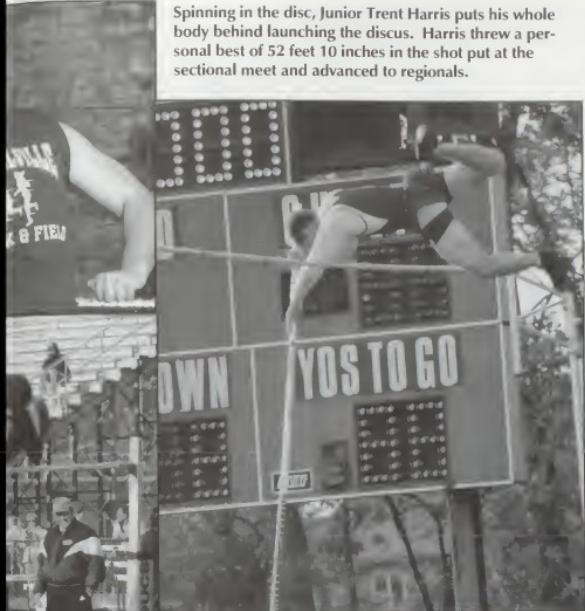


Ed Sablan and Mary Kate Lucas

TRIUMPHANT TRACK

Strong veterans and upstart rookies unite to form a great combination

Spinning in the disc, Junior Trent Harris puts his whole body behind launching the discus. Harris threw a personal best of 52 feet 10 inches in the shot put at the sectional meet and advanced to regionals.



With his drive knee in tact, Senior Aaron Powell clears the bar in the pole vault. Powell was a DAC champion and he advanced to state.

With determination in their eyes, the 4x100 meter relay team displays their desire to compete in the state meet after placing second at regionals. The team consisted of Senior Joseph Frasca, Juniors Jerry Williams and David Morrow, Sophomore Antoine Brown and Juniors Vincent Cole and Alec Reeder.



Extending his legs to obtain maximum distance, Junior David Morrow soars over the sand pit. He led the team with a jump of 21 feet in the long jump.

Driving up his knee to clear the hurdle, Junior Brandon Mosley follows through with his trail leg. Mosley placed in the 110 meter high hurdles, 300 meter intermediate hurdles and pole vault at regionals.

SCOREBOARD

OPPONENT	SCORE
Chandler	Unscored
Lake Central/HIGHLAND	LC-68; M-60; H-6
Valparaiso/Crown Point	V-81; M-54.5; CP-20.5
Hobart	M-77; H-45
West Lafayette	3rd of 8 teams
Chesterton/Portage	C-66.5; M-49.5; P-40
Portage Relays	Unscored
Michigan City/LaPorte	M-76; MC-69; LP-11
DAC Meet	3rd
Sectionals	Tied for 1st / West Side
Regionals	5th
State	1600 Relay places 8th
DAC Record	3rd overall



With a high jump height of 4'8", Junior Nicole Stompor clears the bar with ease.

Holding the school record in the 400 relay, Sophomore Stephanie Neville was 8th in the state as a freshman. She also sprints in the 100 and 200m races.

After qualifying for the state tournament as a sophomore, Junior Lindsey Solomon returned this year to become sectional champ in the shot put.



The top point scorer for the Pirates for the last four years, Senior Alyisia Fortney competes in the long jump, the 100m and 200 m runs, and the 400m and 1600m relay. Fortney and her teammates in the 400 relay have been state medalist for the last three years.



In the discus, Junior Diana Prentoski throws 92'6", and in the shot put, she throws 34'9". Her throws at sectionals fell short and she placed fifth.

Sprinting to the finish line, Freshman Tamara Gaddy qualified for the regionals in the 100m and 200m. She and three others qualified for state in the 400 relay. Gaddy also ran in middle school and broke two records there.



Besides competing in the pole vault, Freshman Stephanie Pavlish runs in 100 hurdles. Pavlish, who jumped 8'6", joined the boys' team and competed for them.

The reigning sectional champ in discus is Senior Kelly Halcarz. Halcarz, a senior, throws the discus 110'5".



At the start of the season, the Merrillville girls' Track Team was ready to go. They had been working hard and preparing for the season months before the real season had even started. "In order to improve for our upcoming season, we worked out and got into shape to prepare for the season," Senior Pauline Petrucci said. They were determined to do their best and make it to state this year. After losing many key seniors last year, the team knew they had their work cut out for this season. The team had to work hard and try their best in order to live up to last year's standards. With seven seniors on this year's team, senior leadership was an important aspect to the team. The seniors stepped up and really showed their talent this year. There were many improvements to the team this year.

"Two of the key people on this year's team were Junior Lindsey Solomon and Senior Alyisia Fortney. They both stepped up and were consistent at winning their meets throughout the entire season," said Junior Diana Prentoski.

Despite all their hard work and efforts this season, the team did not advance to the state meet this year. Although the team did not make it to state, there were certain individuals that made it to this state competition. In the 400-meter relay, Seniors Alyisia Fortney, Nikisha Jefferson, Candice Woods, Sophomores Stephanie Neville and Dana Bolden, and Freshman Tamara Gaddy all advanced to state. In the 1600-meter relay Seniors Nikisha Jefferson, Alyisia Fortney, Pauline Petrucci, Sophomore Dana Bolden and Freshman Sarah Vaughn all advanced to the state competition. Senior Alyisia Fortney advanced to state for the 200-meter dash, Senior Pauline Petrucci advanced for the 800-meter run, and Freshman Stephanie Pavlish advanced for the pole vault.

Lauren Strom

TIRELESS TRACK

Eight advance to state after sectional tie with West Side

GIRL'S TRACK

CHARISMATIC CHEERLEADERS

Chanting with Pirate Pride, the MHS squads pick up the crowd

They may not make touchdowns or shoot three-pointers, but they do make a difference in the game. Cheerleading took on a whole new meaning here at MHS. In addition to cheering at games, the squad attended an intense four-day camp, held clinics for elementary and junior high students and competed in two competitions during the year. In both competitions, the team earned first place in the co-ed division and was the highest scoring team overall.

Senior Mary Kate Lucas explained, "We didn't have a lot of time to perfect the routine, so it felt good to finish in first place."

In the beginning of the year, the cheerleaders were off to a rough start, but things soon got better. This was the first year that sophomores could try out for the purple varsity squad. With this new change, the junior varsity squad was dropped from the program. Some upperclassmen were unsure about the transformation.

"I thought it was a really bad idea. I don't think sophomores are mature enough to handle varsity level material," stated Senior Diana Hughes.

With 14 girls and 5 boys on board for football season, the squad wowed the crowd with competition-like routines. After the squad had been working together for a while, some opinions about the alteration had changed.

"Now I think it's a good idea. It's fun because we could do more advanced stunts with the extra people, but I still don't think the sophomores took it as seriously as they should have," explained Senior Diana Hughes.

By the time basketball season rolled around, the team had to go back to its smaller size of 8 girls and 4 boys. The slightly modified squad still thrilled the crowd with its performances.

The cheerleaders did very well this year, especially considering they had to deal with camp, clinics, squad changes and competitions. And who says cheerleading is not a sport?

Cora Gray



Circling above squad members, Seniors Diana Hughes and Christine Aloia, along with Junior Tara Schaab, show their enthusiasm during a basketball game.

Supporting the basketball team, the Pirates' mascot, Sophomore Doug Kurczynski, shows his spirit on the floor. Kurczynski was crucial in exciting the fans.



Sophomore Kristy Polster smiles big while dancing with her partner, Senior Theresa Schubert. The dance, titled "Friday," was known for its "control part."



Balancing his weight, Junior Ben Graves shows his skills atop his squad members. Graves' strength and attitude were key parts in the team's success.



Shaking their stuff, Seniors Mary Kate Lucas, Theresa Schubert, Christine Aloia, and Diana Hughes dance with their fellow cheerleaders during a timeout.



Flying high, Sophomore Trisha Lakatos, Junior Tara Schaab, and Senior Diana Hughes perform skilled dismounts.





With heads held high, Juniors Ashley Dallas, Tara Schaab and Jodi Suggs chant along with their team. Due to the new squad formation, the girls dedicated practice time to perfecting chants.

Being held up by Junior Ashley Dallas, Sophomore Kristen Neese, and Junior Heidi Hammond, Sophomore Kristi Pawlowski stands atop a lift during a timeout at the basketball game.



Senior Theresa Schubert shows school spirit while performing the school song. Schubert was named Most Valuable Player by her teammates. "I was surprised because I felt that many of the girls on the team deserved it," stated Schubert.



Hoping for crowd involvement, Seniors Diana Hughes, Christine Aloia, and Junior Tara Schaab hit extensions to show their signs.

With her head held high, Senior Jessica Wieneke lets the music control her body. Wieneke led her team through its season as one of the varsity captains.

With poise, Sophomores Nicole Steriovski and Melanie Maple, Senior Trevy Ramos, Freshman Ebony Holly and Sophomore Danielle Nikrin hit their final pose after performing their "Diamonds" competition routine. With this routine, the girls took eighth at the state competition.



First Row: Erica Fizer, Ashley Hinchen, Trevy Ramos, Brittany Hamlin, Tiffany McCauley, Tara Johnson, Ebony Holly. Second Row: Nicole Steriovski, Jessica Daniels, Lindsey Alvarez, Kayla Turner, Tiffany Taylor, Jolynn Vargas, Jessica Francis, Sara Lopez. Third Row: Bianca Mizamakoski, Ashly Janovick, Leigh Nelson, Danielle Nikrin, Niki Kraska, Asia Carter, Melanie Maple, Jessica Wieneke, Katelyn Pruitt.



DANCING DIVAS

Stylish moves spice up half-time shows

Striking a pose, Freshman Ebony Holly and Sophomore Erica Fizer wait to make their move on the next count.

Dashing between each other, the girls move to their next place in the dance. Timing was critical to execute a perfect dance.



Sophomore Ashly Janovick involves the audience as she moves closer to the bleachers.



Sophomore Brittany Hamlin flashes a bright smile that can be seen throughout her whole performance. Smiling big is a must for all of the dancers.

Showing off their dancing ability, the girls perform a routine they learned at a summer camp in June. They have practiced hard to perfect the routine.

Even though dancing on the sidelines gives little room to perform, Junior Tiffany McCauley and Freshman Lindsey Alvarez still give it their all. Executing sharp and fast movements is a necessity during pregame.

The girls get ready to leap through their teammates on the floor. Precision is important in executing the routine.

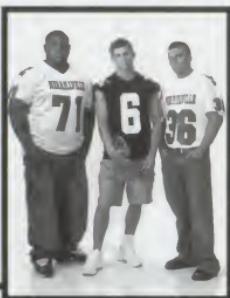
TEAM MVPs, MOST IMPROVED & MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNERS



Boys' Tennis
MVP
Greg Branda

Most Improved
Daniel Burkus
Not Pictured

Mental Attitude
Tony Stofko



Boys' Soccer
MVP
Vangel Nacovski

Most Improved
Jon Gutierrez

Mental Attitude
Eric Nolan



Girls' Soccer
MVP
Julie Collins

Most Improved
Ronda Freuhling

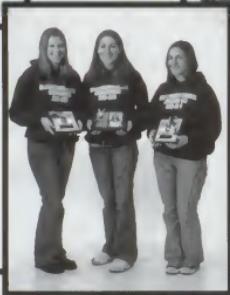
Mental Attitude
Laura Sopko



Football
MVP
Eric Morris

Most Improved
Jamarr Henderson

Mr. Z.I.P.
Joey Frasca



Volleyball
MVP
Christine Aloia

Most Improved
Amy Wedding

Mental Attitude
Christine Aloia



Girls' Golf
MVP
Jacqlene Barsich

Most Improved
Megan Frasca

Mental Attitude
Julianne Fabian

Boys' Basketball
MVP
Lavell Cook

Most Improved
Geoff Lalic

Mental Attitude
Dennis Howell



Girls' Swimming
MVP
Rebecca Stephen

Most Improved
Brittany Jones

Mental Attitude
Katie Kaplar



Boys' Cross Country
MVP
Ricardo Hernandez

Most Improved
Cliff Cook

Mental Attitude
Eric Severson



Boys' Swimming

MVP
Tim Balko

Most Improved
Cody Camp
Not Pictured

Mental Attitude
Paulo Laorden



Cheerleading

MVP
Theresa Schubert

Most Improved
Tara Schaab

P.E.P Award
Diana Hughes



Girls' Track

MVP
Alysia Fortney

Most Improved
Stephanie Pavlish

Mental Attitude
Jamie Sweeney



Baseball

MVP
Jason Plys

Most Improved
Jared Dawson

Mental Attitude
Paul Kurczynski



Softball

MVP
Tiffany Smith

Most Improved
Desiree McDaniel
Not Pictured

Mental Attitude
Monique Navarro



Gymnastics

MVP
Kara Lux

Most Improved
Denise Coleman

Mental Attitude
Katie Tanis



Boys' Track

MVP
David Morrow

Most Improved
Michael Booker

Mental Attitude
Joey Frasca



Wrestling

MVP
Paul Kurczynski

Most Improved
Jerry Williams

Mental Attitude
Thomas Vechey



Girls' Tennis

MVP
Casady Pruitt

Most Improved
Morgan Zellers

Mental Attitude
Kathleen Szot



Boys' Golf

MVP
Ryan Zurek

Most Improved
Shawn O'Keefe

Mental Attitude
Chris Trapane

Boys' Cross Country

Head Coach: Mike Hoffmann

First Row: Scott Santelik, Andrew Caruana, Andrew Leicht, Justin Floyd, Christopher Bishop, Michael Hill, Brett Skorupa; Second Row: Kevin Wilson, Matt Crane, Ricardo Hernandez, Coach Mike Hoffmann, Eric Severson, Cliff Cook, John Kelly



Girls' Cross Country

Head Coach: Bobi Cole

First Row: Chrissy Leus, Dana Bolden, Sarra Kwell, Megan Lacny, Rachael Thomas, Raquel Guerrero; Second Row: Pauline Petruch, Allison Dyer, Jamie Sweeney, Coach Bobi Cole, Natalie Weall, Nikisha Jefferson, Katie Wilson



Varsity Cheerleading

Head Coach: Lori Govert

First Row: Katie Spaliaris, Tara Schaab, Tricia Lakatos; Second Row: Jodi Suggs, Mark Roberts, Diana Hughes, Kristen Neese, Jill Porter, Ronnie Pedroza, Nicole Stompor; Third Row: Mark Wieneke, Kristy Polster, Earl McClain, Kristi Pawlowski, Joey Jordan; Fourth Row: Mary Kate Lucas, Ashley Dallas, Theresa Schubert



Freshman Cheerleading

Head Coach: Angela Bartolomeo

First Row: Kristin Brindley, Brianna Yarnell, Emily Rodriguez; Second Row: Ashley Thomas, Kamai Westbrooks, Cambria Hollingsworth, Holly Floyd



Girls' Golf

Head Coach: Mike Hamacher

First Row: Angela East, Tamara Gaddy, Ashley Washburn, Jacqlene Barsich, Megan Frasca; Second Row: Rachel Hayes, Beth Lashenik, Coach Mike Hamacher, Julie Fabian, Janel Barsich





Boys' VARSITY SOCCER

Head Coach: Brian Past

First Row: Sahson Karimi, Vince Cole, Dan Sierra, Peter Brasovan, Eric Nolan, Brian Nienhaus, Kwame Asabere; Second Row: Ciro Ramos, Martin Cole, Matt Krysa, Jason Kendera, Tim Jelinek, Vangel Nacovski, Daniel Padberg, Nick Mileos; Third Row: Coach Rick Hurey, Brian Cruz, Aleks Sotiroski, Jared Byczko, Josh Diaz, Igor Ristevski, Jon Gutierrez, Brad Daniel, Coach Brian Past



Boys' JV SOCCER

Head Coach: Rick Hurey

First Row: Terrell Doaks, Matt Basile, Brian Albee, Adam Morris, Lucas Phillips; Second Row: Joe Mireles, Jeff Steltzer, Ben Graves, Edwin Moreno, Bryan Ruder, Adam Farag; Third Row: Coach Rick Hurey, David Morrow, Gabe Ziegler, Bojan Jovanovic, James Mysliwiec, Odun Obajuluwa, Coach Brian Past



Girls' VARSITY SOCCER

Head Coach: Tammy Deel

First Row: Jacki Gurney, Jeannelle Moreno, Laura Sopko, Emily Czekala, Gillian Alvear; Second Row: Brittany Williams, Mallory Homola, Alison Conquest, Kim Schneiderwine, Mandy Medellin, Kim Jansen, Deanna Rivera; Third Row: Coach Kristi Krooswyk, Julie Collins, Shay Kuzma, Coach Tammy Deel, Ronda Fruehling, Alyssa Wachter, Coach Adam Deel



Girls' JV SOCCER

Head Coach: Kristi Krooswyk

First Row: Gillian Alvear, Alyssa Ziller, Becky Kohler, Megan Bravo, Allana Fleck, Jeannelle Moreno; Second Row: Armelia Walters, Brittany Perry, Coach Kristi Krooswyk, Tara Schreiber, Vicki Rousis



Boys' TENNIS

Head Coach: Dave Zimmerman

First Row: Josh Puzey, Jared Perkins, Albert Williams, Daniel Burkus, Eddie Riveron; Second Row: Mgr. Courtney Miller, Cole Perkins, Brian Jostes, Josh Donahue, Greg Branda, Randy Johnson, Sohail Azeem, Tony Stofko, Mgr. Stoten Stofko; Third Row: Mgr. Morgan Zellers, Coach Allen Branda, Florian Aeschimann, Drake Branda, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Vince Torres, Josh Diehl, Coach Ferrar "Doc" Levinson, Mgr. Casady Pruitt

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Tania Price

First Row: Diana Prentoski, Mgr. Krista Dora, Virtina Savage; Second Row: Tianna Coleman, Carol Newell; Third Row: Coach Erin Price, Coach Mark Ciesielski, Amy Wedding, Heidi Hammond, Coach Tania Price, Coach Michelle Carr; Fourth Row: Liz Gallinatti, Kim Shapley; Fifth Row: Monique Navarro, Christine Aloia



JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Michelle Carr

First Row: Heather Zurek, Erica Aloia, Elaina Gemelas, Diana Prentoski, Callie Lucas, Stephanie Pavlish. Second Row: Coach Erin Price, Coach Tania Price, Virtina Savage, Kenya West, Aneesia Brown, Megan Stacks, Coach Michelle Carr, Coach Mark Ciesielski, Mgr. Krista Dora



FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Erin Price and Tracy Anderson

First Row: Morgan Gill, Renee Ragon, Mgr. Krista Dora, Paige Patterson, Angelique Gruchmal; Second Row: Coach Tania Price, Coach Mark Ciesielski, Marissa Duncan, Denise Burney, Megan Lee, Rachel Rudolph, Coach Erin Price, Coach Michelle Carr



Boys' SWIMMING

Head Coach: Bryon Angerman

First Row: Paulo Laorden, Ed Sablan, David Rooda, Tony Stofko, Joe Plukas, Tim Balko; Second Row: Florian Aeschimann, Alec Reeder, Mike Wadley, Matt Hays, Scott Stephen; Third Row: Aron Okichich, Adam Stetson, Chris Adams, Josh Diaz, Tommy Slivka



Girls' SWIMMING

Head Coach: Bryon Angerman

First Row: Rebecca Stephen, Emily Mandich, Julie Trimble, Brittney Stoica, Cynthia Gonzalez, Jeannelle Moreno; Second Row: Cathryn Stupic, Melissa Wadley, Erika Larson, Laura Matyjas, Katalin Freund, Christine Leus; Third Row: Ashley Jones, Elena Waitkevich, Jessica Sims, Morgan Gill, Angela Baumann, Laura Flynn; Fourth Row: Elise Szany, Ashley Robinson, Brittany Jones, Marissa Duncan, Emily Peters, Renee Ragon, Sneza Nacovski; Fifth Row: Cara Fejes, Denise Burney, Katherine Kaplar, Lisa Lumbaroski, Kelsey Gibson, Amanda Cast





VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Jeff Yelton

First Row: Michael Binder, Matt Paul, Dorian Roberts, David Trajkovski, Justin Williams, Kevin Jordan, Jared Dawson, Jason Mitchell, Jeremy Lee, Robert Toth, Mark Abel, William McGhee; Second Row: Trainer Amanda Simpson, Trainer Jennifer Slivka, David Wright, Matt Sopko, Tony Degard, Nate Powell, Jim Reitz, Justin Gestring, Temidayo Macarthy, Mike Nason, Aaron Powell, Trent Harris, Kevin Olson, Michael Neal, Trainer Lindsey Richards; Third Row: Trainer Heather Casady, Mgr. Courtney Miller, Mgr. Mark Huber, Head Trainer Sean Hudson, Coach Bill Roberts, Coach Wilbur Milhouse, Coach Joe Atria, Coach Dennis Hamilton, Head Coach Jeff Yelton, Coach Tony Bartolomeo, Coach Ben Parrish, Coach Zac Wells, Coach Tony Klimczak, Trainer Kim Hurysz, Mgr. Shawna Breitenstein, Mgr. Genna Wirtz, Trainer Ashley Berger; Fourth Row: Brian Kiszka, Tommy Vechey, Chris Mercado, Nick Kazonis, Donnie Hopson, John Kedziora, Breon Harris, Andy Burt, John Johnson, Edward Contreras, Adrian Jones, Doug Kurczynski, Dennis Howell, Alex Gates; Fifth Row: Milorad Trkulja, Paul Kurczynski, Joey Frasca, Adam Tegtmann, Brandon Mosley, Jerry Williams, Chris Harris, Eric Morris, Bart Woodward, Jarret Darling, Robert Nava, Paul Jankuloski, Jared Yagelski, Michael Berla; Sixth Row: Jeffery Champion, Robert Wahlman, Justin Previs, Kevin Dwyer, Randy Aleman, Justin Stanley, Wessam El-Omar, Jason Smith, Gary Marek, Nick Pajon, Tim Bugno, Noyan Olcum, Sylvester Brooks, Sean Kinsey; Seventh Row: Brandon Loudermill, Jake Appleton, Kevin Marsh, Bryant Person, Dale Lee, Cecil Collins, David Spalaras, Joey Purevich, Virgil Savage, Kefton Tinsley, Onette Gattlin, Jeff Abrego, David Rooda, Jamarr Henderson, Dave Plasencia



FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Luis Lopez

First Row: Mike Trajkovski, James Crawley, Anthony Curry, Randall Laster, Mike Bork, Chad Dawson, Colt Contreras, Robert Aldrich, Daniel Holley, Tim Wagner; Second Row: James Rowe, Jonathan Kuck, Andrian Sanchez, Tim Sovich, Evan Parker, Chris Madison, Kyle Bateman, Courtney King, Justin Belko, Jeremy Billingsley; Third Row: Deji Macarthy, Darryl Evans, Sean Kavois, Coach Matt Ard, Coach Luis Lopez, Coach Jeff Clinkenbeard, Joey Lobodinski, Matt Braatz, Ty Andrea Hunter; Fourth Row: Colin McDonald, Cedric Rambert, Justin Gust, Michael Padgett, Jamie Palomo, Steve Papamihalakis, William Crosby, Antwone Gildon, Richard Pennington, Phillip Keene; Fifth Row: Kyle Wengel, Vernando Mayweathers, William Gidley, Brandon Jordan, Dexter Larimore, Jonathon Woodward, Harry Boshkamp, Dan Minsky, Rich Breitenstein

Boys' VARSITY BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Jim East

First Row: Mgr. Mark Huber, Josh Mayo, Derrick Jones, Anthony Dennis, Mgr. Jason Henderson; Second Row: Coach Leo Bonin, Dennis Howell, Igor Ristevski, David Coughlin, Chris Harris, Coach Craig Adelsperger; Third Row: Coach Jim East, Dezmonie Jackson, Bojan Jovanovic, Geoff Lalic, Jim Reitz, Lavell Cook, Trainer Sean Hudson



Boys' JV BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Leo Bonin

First Row: Mgr. Jason Henderson, Daryl Arthur, Marques Smith, Tristan Dawson, Mgr. Mark Huber; Second Row: Darren Anderson, Curtis Wyatt, Sean Kinsey, Anthony Dennis; Third Row: Aaron Marcus, Mike Neal, Coach Leo Bonin, Jon Reynolds, Kyle Loudermilk



Boys' FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

Head Coach: David Herbert

First Row: Anthony Curry, Evan Parker, Jeremy Billingsley, Albert Williams, Darryl Evans, Chad Dawson, Rico Marrero; Second Row: Deji Macarthy, Jesse Blue, Laroi Ferrell, Sheldon Hayes, Daniel Minskey, James Rowe; Third Row: Coach Jim Vermillion, Greg Hill, Vance Gidley, Rafael Gerodimos, Amr Latif, Joe Lobodinski, Coach David Herbert



GYMNASTICS

Head Coach: Diane Roberts

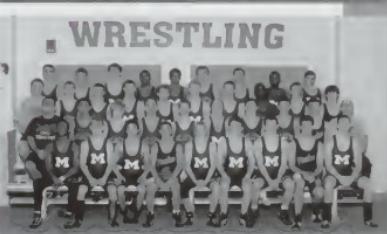
First Row: Denise Coleman, Lindsey Sharp, Kara Lux, Katie Tanis, Taezia Alford; Second Row: Head Coach Diane Roberts, Coach Bill Roberts



WRESTLING

Head Coach: David Maldonado

First Row: Breon Harris, Matt Basile, Gary Nelson, William Coria, Richard Hauber, Andrew Binder, David Frank, Jamie Palomo, Robert Wahlman; Second Row: Coach David Maldonado, Edward Barcenas, David Jutkus, Lex Paz, Derek Midkiff, Brad Woodward, Colt Contreras, Eric Barcenas, Aaron Potter, Coach Gene Bierman; Third Row: Coach Rob Petyko, Roy Bishop, Matt Braatz, Paul Kurczynski, Clint Wimmer, Tommy Vechey, Doug Kurczynski, Jerry Williams, Justin Gust, Chris Mercado; Fourth Row: Nate Powell, Aaron Powell, Dexter Larimore, Jh'rome Tuggle, Joey Jordan, Joe Szcerba, Jeff Abrego, Brandon Lewis, Noyan Olcum





GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Bob Maicher

First Row: Jessica Gallinatti, Brittany Ursery, Jacqlene Barsich, Melissa Borom; Second Row: Laneshia Thomas, Karen Davis, Brittany Huish, Gina Howard, Tianna Coleman; Third Row: Coach Bob Maicher, Kim Shapley, Brittney Moore, Marshay Jolly, Coach Sharon Waters



GIRLS' JV BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Stephanie Nelson

First Row: Gina Angotti, Rosalinda Sanchez, Chaquilla Tucker; Second Row: Janel Barsich, Tammy Gaddy, Angie East, Natassia Williams, Lindsey Richards, Ashley Green; Third Row: Nicole Shudick, Coach Stephanie Nelson, Candice Wright



GIRLS' FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Jen Niksch

First Row: Cheryl Harrison, Celeste Alcantar, Erica Richmond; Second Row: Dominique Cudjoe, Melissa Crossley, Sarah Vaughn, Raquel Guerrero, Rochelle Waxton, Tyona Marshall; Third Row: Jennifer Addison, Coach Jen Niksch, Courtney McLeod



Boys' GOLF

Head Coach: Joe Starkey

First Row: Matt Kasperan, Scott Schafer, Raleigh Enslen, Jon Woodward, Ryan Zurek; Second Row: Tony Stofko, Neil Marek, Coach Joe Starkey, Shawn O'Keefe, Chris Trapane



GIRLS' TENNIS

Head Coach: Dave Zimmerman

First Row: Courtney Miller, Morgan Zellers, Callie Lucas, Katelyn Pruitt, Casady Pruitt, Jasmine Dayon; Second Row: Mgr. Josh Diehl, Jessica Savin, Katie Coleman, Jaymini Dave, Pauline Katsourous, Dyan Darang, Lagina Williams, Farah Arshami, Mgr. Florian Aeschimann; Third Row: Coach Ferrar Levinson, Kiyanne Harris, Missy Paniaguas, Emily Peters, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Priyanka Arshanapalli, Anesia Brown, Kathleen Szot, Coach Kim Naspinsky

VARSITY BASEBALL

Head Coach: Zac Wells

First Row: David Trajkovski, Jared Dawson, Dan Kwiatkoski, Daniel Burkus, Scott Saberniak; Second Row: Eric Morris, Justin Previs, Jason Curtis, Paul Kurczynski, Steven Marcus, Coach John Kwiatkoski, Nick Walters, Ryan Donohue, Head Coach Zac Wells, Jason Plys, Vince Torres, Coach Mark Ciesielski



JV BASEBALL

Head Coach: Brad Schulte

First Row: Jimmy Ryan, Kevin Saberniak, David Trajkovski, Matt Paul, Joe Frank; Second Row: Daniel Burkus, Brenden Schafer, Jose Ponce, David Jutkus, Mike Martinez; Third Row: Coach Anthony Hofer, Jason Curtis, Kyle Loudermilk, Kevin Marsh, Ryan Donahue, Doug Kurczynski, Coach Brad Schulte



FRESHMAN BASEBALL

Head Coach: Randy Horka

First Row: Justin Belko, William Brosch, Adam Farag, Chad Dawson, Jon Kucik; Second Row: Evan Parker, Phillip Keene, Bo McClendon, Bryan Ruder, Darryl Evans; Third Row: Coach Mike Sellers, Colin McDonald, Dan Minskey, Coach Randy Horka, Sam Minskey, Alfredo Arredondo, Coach Rich Plys



VARSITY SOFTBALL

Head Coach: Bob Bergeson

First Row: Gina Angotti, Heather Zurek, Samantha Sullivan, Jacki George, Kris Paskash, Lindsey Richards; Second Row: Heidi Hammond, Michelle Paskash, Tiffany Smith, Kristy Polster, Desiree McDaniel, Jenna Hill, Monique Navarro; Third Row: Coach Jim Lucas, Lauren Strom, Brittany Huish, Head Coach Bob Bergeson, Jen Mason, Megan Stacks, Coach Andy Niksich

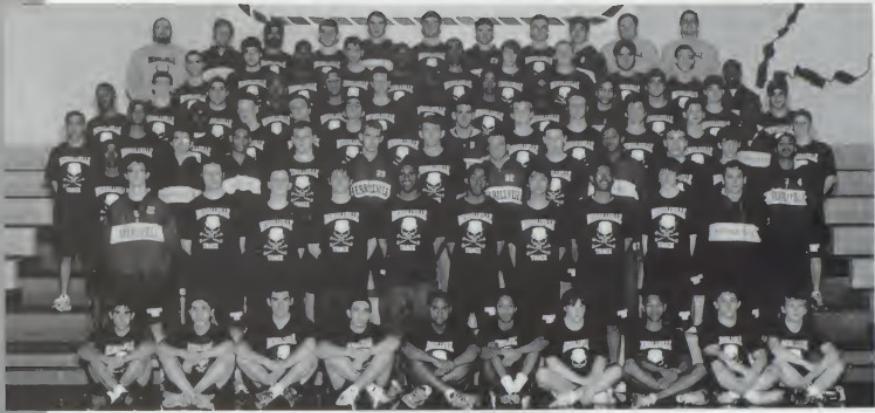


JV SOFTBALL

Head Coach: Stephanie Nelson

First Row: Felice Graves, Xiomara Vega, Nicole Vowell, Gina Angotti, Emily Rodriguez, Megan Lee; Second Row: Mrs. Renee Schmellmeyer, Jacki George, Tiffany Kedziora, Lindsey Richards, Jessica Francis, Cambria Hollingsworth, Coach Ricky Holtz; Third Row: Megan Schaffer, Ashley Thomas, Ashley Traina, Head Coach Stephanie Nelson, Rachael Rudolph, Lindsey Trock, Christian Ellis





BOYS' TRACK

Head Coach: James Johnston

First Row: Joe Mireles, Raymond Tinoco, Brian Nienhaus, James Crawley, Vince Cole, Isaiah Mercado, Sean Kavois, Anthony Curry, Colt Contreras, Dale VanVleet; Second Row: Matt Crane, Joe Clark, Chris Tokarski, Alec Reeder, Brandon Mosley, Michael Hill, Ed Sablan, Justin Williams, Justin Floyd, Edward Contreras; Third Row: William Bandy, Andrew Caruana, Carlton Hoyle, Jon Hmuovich, Jared Byczko, Coach James Johnston, Joey Frasca, Mike Padgett, Marcus Berry, Greg Heron, Kevin Wilson, Brandin Jones; Fourth Row: Arnie Valdez, Cedric Rambert, Steve Lares, Tim Bugno, Brad Daniel, Ricardo Hernandez, Jerry Williams, Peter Brasovan, Matt Krysa, Gary Clark, Bart Woodward, Tim Sovich, Cliff Cook, Brett Skorupa; Fifth Row: Kyle Force, Roy Bishop, Aaron Rodriguez, Jeremy Adamson, Michael Booker, James Mysliwiec, Jh'Rome Tuggle, David Morrow, Antoine Brown, Ricky Crawley, Steve Papamihalakis, Chris Ginter, Armando Bravo; Sixth Row: Bobi Lucente, Rich Hartline, Virgil Savage, Eric Severson, Kendall Thomas, Sergio Nava-McCain, Gabe Ziegler, Harry Boskamp, James Kelly, Tony Lucente, Robert Aldrich; Seventh Row: Coach Ben Parrish, Coach Mike Hoffman, Coach Luis Lopez, Dexter Larimore, Nate Powell, Trent Harris, Aaron Powell, Matt Sopko, Tony Sablan, Coach Brian Past, Coach Tony Bartolomeo.



GIRLS' TRACK

Head Coach: Joe Atria

First Row: Ebony Holly, Brianna Yarnell, Whitney English, Erin Parks, Chrissy Leus, Erica Robinson; Second Row: Emily Czekala, Candice Woods, Sarra Kwell, Rosalinda Sanchez, Nicole Stompor, Megan Lacny, Stephanie Pavlish, Elizabeth Gallinatti, Dana Bolden, Kanesha Jennings; Third Row: Raquel Guerrero, Tamara Gaddy, Alyssia Fortney, Shenell Haynes, DeUnique Gant, Sharon Mercado, Pauline Petruch, Nikisha Jefferson, Sarah Vaughn; Fourth Row: Coach Phil Hey, Tyona Marshall, Alison Conquest, Natalie King, Allison Dyer, Lindsey Solomon, Kelly Halcarz, Melanie Maple, Katie Wilson, Krystal Marshall, Candice Wright, Coach Bobbi Cole; Fifth Row: Coach Jeff Clinkbeard, Natalie Weall, Virtina Savage, Diana Prentoski, Stephanie Neville, Jamie Sweeney, Kenyetta West, Courtney McLeod, Head Coach Joe Atria

Submerged Into



Seniors during a senior meeting



Freshman Cvetka Lozevska



Mr. Zac Wells and Senior Keith Murphy

Junior Jasmine Dayon



Junior Ben Graves



Crowning the Queens, honoring the Kings, flying down the Pudding Slide, competing for the best float, doing the Cha-Cha Slide at the Homecoming Dance, cheering for the hottest legs, exploring different languages and cultures, representing MHS, giving back to the community, preparing for the future, reporting on the latest news, celebrating diversity, speaking out against destructive decisions, expressing artistic ability, broadcasting the Friday Show, capturing hearts at the Valentine's Dance, challenging the staff to a basketball game, promenading at the Grand March, creating unforgettable memories at Prom, soaking up the many activities MHS has to offer.



Senior Nejra Okun and other Merrillville students at the Homecoming Dance



Seniors Kyle Frontisik, David Spiliaris and
Stephanie Bernstein

A Heartland Bloodcenter Nurse, Juniors
Nicole Stompor and Josh Donahue



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEEK



Taking a break for a quick siesta in Mr. Don Baron's class, Senior Jim Kelly shows his spirit by wearing a sombrero for Homecoming Week's Hat Day. Students also wore pajamas, college logos, and class and school colors.



Coach Jeff Yelton congratulates Senior Joey Frasca after Frasca was named Mr. Football during the Homecoming game. Frasca commented, "I was privileged because my teammates voted for me and I know many deserved it, but I was honored to have it." Frasca, middle line-backer and a captain, also received the Mr. ZIP award at the sports banquet.



Competing for the best float in the Homecoming Parade, senior students work together to win first place. Senior Dyann Segvich said, "It felt good to win best float since we put so much work into it." After coming in last place for the entire week's spirit points, winning first for the float gave the seniors a little bit of satisfaction.

HOMECOMING VICTORY CAPS OFF WEEK OF MEMORIES

Filled with spirit and excitement, Homecoming Week left MHS students with memories that will be remembered for years to come. Each class bonded together as they competed for points throughout Spirit Week. Students could be seen roaming the halls in hats, pajamas, college logos, class color apparel, and in purple and white, or red, white and blue. "My favorite Spirit Day during Homecoming Week was college apparel day because I borrowed a Purdue sweatshirt and kept it!" laughed Junior Heidi Hammond. The Junior Class earned bragging rights with a first place finish.

On Thursday, the sirens blared during the Homecoming parade as the floats drove by with the theme "Tame the Wolves." The Senior Class grabbed the award for the best float. The Goofy Games also provided fun and laughs with events including Twister, Pie-Eating contest, three-legged race, and the Pudding Slide. Despite the rain, participants finished all events and the Senior Class and Junior Class tied for first place.

Friday night, the crowd cheered for the football team as the Bucs demolished Michigan City 35-0. Halftime activities entertained spectators as Mr. Football, Senior Joey Frasca, was announced and the Homecoming Queen candidates stood with their escorts on the field. The nominees named to Court were Seniors Domonique Garibay, Diana Hughes, Nicole Sparger, Fontaine Stegall, Jamie Sweeny and Kathleen Szot. 2001 Queen Tiffany Alleman placed the crown on Stegall, who commented, "It feels good that people considered me, out of so many other girls, to represent them as their Homecoming Queen. I was very surprised."

Casady Pruitt



After announcing the 2002 Homecoming Queen, Senior nominees Jamie Sweeney, Domonique Garibay, Diana Hughes, Nicole Sparger and Kathleen Szot are all smiles as they pose with Queen Fontaine Stegall. The girls were chosen by fellow students to be put on Court.

Showing their spirit, student-fans cheer the Pirates on to victory in the Homecoming game against Michigan City. Triumph over the Wolves put an end to a great Spirit Week.

After receiving her crown, Homecoming Queen Senior Fontaine Stegall smiles through her surprise. Stegall was announced as Queen at halftime of the Homecoming game.



"It feels good that people considered me, out of so many other girls, to represent them as their Homecoming Queen. I was very surprised."

Fontaine Stegall

"I really did not expect it at all. I can think of tons of other girls worthy of being nominated for queen."

Kathleen Szot



Participating in the goofy games during Spirit Week, Sophomore Kris Simonovski enjoys himself in a game of Twister with fellow students. Despite the rainy weather, many students came to show their spirit.



Taking a break from dancing, Seniors Igor Ristevski and Ryan Zurek escape from the excitement of the dance floor. They both enjoyed the refreshments provided in the hospitality room.

Dancing the night away, Seniors Christine Aloia and Chris Trapane gaze into each other's eyes at the Homecoming Dance. When asked about the dance, Trapane replied, "I had a great night at our last Homecoming."

It was cool
hanging out with
my friends at
our last
Homecoming.
The party after
was even better.

Senior Ryan
Zurek

The dance was
fun because I
got to be with all
my friends at
our last
Homecoming as
Seniors.

Senior Igor
Ristevski



Enjoying a moment in the spotlight, Seniors Fontaine Stegall and Joey Frasca share a dance in the Hall of Flags at the Homecoming Dance. Every year the Homecoming Queen gets the privilege of dancing with Mr. Football. Stegall and Frasca each received these prestigious honors.

Busting a move, Seniors Brittany Williams, Cora Gray, Jared Byczko, Eric Nolan, Peter Brasovan, Diana Hughes and Eric Morris groove to the beat of the music. These friends never hesitate to have a good time on the dance floor. Morris described, "It was fun taking care of business on the dance floor after taking care of business on the football field against Michigan City."



DANCING THE "KNIGHT" AWAY

After a triumphant victory over the Michigan City Wolves, the students of MHS celebrated by dancing the "knight" away. The Hall of Flags was decorated like a fairy tale to fit the theme "A Knight to Remember." The dance lasted from 7 to 10 p.m. Student government sponsored the homecoming dance as the members of this organization woke up early and decorated the hall for that evening.

Students enjoyed the music provided by disc jockey Kiss FM. Songs were dedicated for Mr. Football Senior Joey Frasca and the Homecoming Queen Senior Fontaine Stegall as they danced together. Also the Homecoming Court, Seniors Domonique Garibay, Diana Hughes, Nicole Sparger, Fontaine Stegall, Jamie Sweeney and Kathleen Szot created memories by having a dance with their dates.

Senior Christine Aloia explained, "The music was a lot of fun. Dancing with my friends at our last Homecoming Dance is something I will always remember."

In between dancing, the students took a break in the Senior Citizens Center. Decorated to match the theme, the center had refreshments for everyone to enjoy. When the dance was over, couples went their own way to enjoy the rest of the evening. Before leaving, each couple was given a gift to remember their night.

Mary Kate Lucas



Standing in the spotlight, Freshmen Nathan Chandler and Melanie Mangrum smile at one another. Before the night was over, the two did not miss the chance to dance with each other.



Clapping to the music, Senior Michelle Phillips enjoys her last Homecoming Dance at Merrillville High School. Everyone clapped along to the Cha Cha Slide as Phillips leads the way. The DJ from Kiss FM played new hits and old favorites.



Taking a break from the action, Seniors Nicole Sparger, Casady Pruitt, Kathleen Szot, Christine Aloia, Junior Heidi Hammond and Senior Jamie Sweeney enjoy the Homecoming festivities. Nicole Sparger commented about the dance, "Homecoming was so much fun because I got to hang out with my date and also party with the girls at the dance."

Thanks To Nothing band members, Freshmen Justin Floyd, Colin McDonald, Joey Mireles and Donald Tolh, give students a reason to move onto the dance floor. The band performed at the Valentine's Dance.

After a few dances, Sophomore Lindsey Nosich and her date, Hobart Freshman Robert Koritko, relax and enjoy each other's company.



Caught by surprise, Freshman Andrew James flashes a smile while his date, Freshman Rachel Hayes, looks on as they enter the dance.



Unwinding by the candlelight, Freshmen Marisol Tirado and Eric Vazquez hold hands across the table before returning to the dance floor.



For the second year in a row, freshmen and sophomores had the chance to make their own memories at the Valentine's Dance. Normally a chance to make the night romantic with a date, this year's dance allowed groups of friends and singles the opportunity to enjoy what the dance had to offer.

One aspect of the dance that excited the underclassmen was that this dance was only for them.

Freshman Cambria Hollingsworth said, "The Valentine's Dance gave freshmen and sophomores more of a chance for something their own since prom is only for juniors and seniors."

One change that made this year's Valentine's Dance different from previous years was that a live band accompanied the typical DJ. The band, Thanks To Nothing, made up of all freshmen, played five songs for their peers.

Freshman Janel Barsich commented, "I loved the band because they did a good job entertaining everyone and they had a lot of energy."

The Valentine's Dance also had a taste of prom. Students who attended the dance selected Freshman Jessica Gallinatti and Sophomore Amber Jimenez as queens of the night.

"I never imagined that I would be queen. I was surprised and excited," said Gallinatti.

As Cupid's arrow struck the hearts of the underclassmen, the Valentine's Dance proved to be a successful night for the FCCLA.

"The FCCLA students worked hard every day to put together the dance for the students," said FCCLA sponsor Carol VonBehren. "I'm very proud of everyone."

Igor Ristevski

CUPID STRIKES HEARTS



Senior Justin Singer and Freshman Angelique Gruchmal dance the electric slide.

Taking a breather, Sophomores Chevron Earl, William Chandler and Arthur Genna socialize with Freshmen Jennifer Cruz and Justin Shirley by the refreshments table before returning to the dance floor.



Freshman Queen Jessica Gallinatti

"I never imagined that I would be queen. I was surprised and excited."
Freshman Jessica Gallinatti



Sophomore Queen Amber Jimenez

AT THE VALENTINE'S DANCE



As he drives to the basket, Senior Igor Ristevski rushes past Chesterton defender Erik Babcock. Ristevski was no stranger to pain. He played with injuries, such as jammed fingers, many times before, and this did not stop him from playing in the Homecoming Game.



Showing some skin, "The Mystery Man" struts his stuff during the Mr. Senior Hot Legs competition. After overwhelming applause, Senior Michael Hill won.



Anticipating the crowning of the Homecoming Queen are Sophomore Amber Goodman, Freshmen Brianna Yarnell, Rachel Hayes, Jessica Gallinati and April Echols.

BASKETBALL HOMECOMING

Basketball Homecoming is an event that students always look forward to. It brings Spirit Week, Homecoming Court, the Senior Hot Legs Competition and the basketball game. However, this year was a little bit different. Because of a new student government rule, there was almost no Homecoming Court.

"It goes against IASC [Indiana Association of Student Councils] policies," Student Government President Jenny Heidler explained, "which states that it [Homecoming Court] does not benefit the entire school, but rather the 50 or so senior girls who want to be crowned."

After some last minute preparations, Homecoming Week was kicked off February 3 as students wore their favorite college team apparel. The remainder of the week included Crazy Hair Day, Mismatch Day, Class Color Day, and as always, Purple and White Day.

At halftime, the Homecoming Court took the floor. The crowd waited anxiously as the announcement of the Queen was announced. The four senior girls on court were Chivon Bonilla, Trevy Ramos, Kathleen Szot and Candace Woods. Szot was crowned queen.

Kathleen Szot said, "It really caught me off guard, but I was happy."

After the announcement of Homecoming Queen, the Senior Hot Legs Competition commenced. Escorted by the cheerleaders, ten senior boys strutted out with brown paper bags covering their faces. Each boy wore his own unique outfit and had a chance to convince the crowd that he should be the new Mr. Senior Hot Legs. In the end, the crowd selected Michael Hill.

"I was thankful for everyone who cheered and booed for me because it helped me win," Hill said.

Despite the festivities, the Basketball Team was unable to pull out a victory. After being ahead by 17 points, the Pirates were unable to stop Chesterton's rally in what turned out to be a devastating 63-60 loss.

"It was a tough loss, especially since we were in first place in the DAC prior to that game," Senior Igor Ristevski stated, "but we beat them when it mattered — sectionals."

Monique Navarro



Surprised by the announcement of her name as Homecoming Queen, Senior Kathleen Szot is still in disbelief about the whole experience. Along with the crowd, Seniors Candace Woods, Trevy Ramos and Chivon Bonilla cheered on their fellow classmate.

Wooing the crowd as he struts his stuff, Senior Jacob Appleton competes for the title of Mr. Senior Hot Legs. Students go to extremes to win the desired title.



I wanted to do something stupid and funny for senior year, but I didn't do anything to prepare.
-Senior Jacob Appleton

It happened really fast, and I really wasn't expecting it, so it really caught me off guard.
-Senior Kathleen Szot



To the enjoyment of their screaming fans, Seniors Vince Torres, Mary Kate Lucas and Michael Hill lead the way for the rest of the contestants in the Senior Hot Legs contest. All of the seniors dressed creatively to win over the fans for the coveted title.

Using his height to his advantage, Junior Bojan Jovanovic struggles with Chesterton's Mike Yagelski to grab the rebound. Although the team tried its best to win the Homecoming Game, they were defeated in the end.



Russian Club
Pavle Jankuloski and Sponsor Mr. Al Stoner.



French Club
Sponsor: Ms. Irene Spiro
1st Row: Damara Hamlin, Ashley Poling, Alisha Lucas, Jenni Festa, Cynthia Gonzalez, Jamie Kistinger; 2nd Row: Kymalee Gresh, Dikah Joyner, Elise Szany, Hilary Marinich, Casady Pruitt; 3rd Row: Lindsey Harrel, Emily Peters, Aariean Crawford, Claudia Tirado, Jonathan Warus; 4th Row: Jason Kendera, Ms. Spiro, Jon Wargo, Kathleen Sotz.



Spanish Club
Sponsor: Mrs. Mary Ann Bertram
1st Row: Joi-Lyn Eller, Mrs. Bertram, Waricha Watthanapha;
2nd Row: Matthew Huber, Steven Vanek.



German Club
Sponsor: Mr. Al Stoner
1st Row: Julia Roames, Laura Matyjas; 2nd Row: Dominic Angotti, Caitlin Floyd, Emily Mandich; 3rd Row: Pavle Jankuloski, Mr. Stoner.

Making memories, German Club members Junior Nicole Legalo, Junior Ben Graves, and Senior Kyle Beshears enjoy dining at the Berghoff Restaurant in Chicago. Sponsor Mr. Al Stoner commented, "All the kids really had a nice time in Chicago, just like they always do!"





Enjoying French cuisine, Seniors Theresa Schubert and Kathleen Sotz dine at Café Fondue. The fondue method of cooking was a new experience for many French Club members.

Participating in the common language club ritual of dining out at a restaurant, Junior Dominic Angotti, Senior Julia Roames, and Senior Brian Zelisko enjoy their experience at the Berghoff Restaurant in Chicago. German Club members also had holiday parties throughout the year with the other language clubs.



Participating in the Homecoming Week festivities, French Club members accompany their float with the theme of "Mardi Gras" during the annual parade. In addition to participating in Homecoming events, French Club also had holiday parties and visited restaurants like Café Fondue.

DABBING WITH A NEW LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



All the kids really had a nice time in Chicago, just like they always do!
German Club
-Sponsor Mr. Al Stoner

We always have fun things planned for French Club and you get the chance to learn more about the culture while making friends and memories.
French Club Member
-Senior Damara Hamlin





Freshman Class Officers

Sponsor: Mrs. Carrie Bedwell

1st Row: Heather Zurek, Jessica Francis, Niki Kraska, Megan Lee.



Sophomore Class Officers

Sponsor: Mr. Bob Bergeson

1st Row: Kenyetta West, Joia Warner, Erin Knight, Kathryn Diehl.



Junior Class Officers

Sponsors: Mrs. Amber Baron, and Mrs. Debbie Monix

1st Row: Jaclyn George, Ashley Dallas, Dominic Angotti, Jasmine Dayon.



Senior Class Officers

Sponsor: Mrs. Maggie Stallings, Mr. Wade Boise, Mrs. Debbie Klippl

1st Row: Dave Rooda, Diana Hughes, Damara Hamlin, Monique Navarro.



Student Advisory

Sponsor: Mark Sperling

1st Row: Liz Hall, Morgan Zellers, Kim Jansen, Katelyn Pruitt.

Student Government

Sponsor: Mrs. Rosellen Kozel

1st Row: Damara Hamlin, Jasmine Dayon, Gina Angotti, Sarah Kennedy, Julia Roames, Destiny Mathis, Jenny Heidler; 2nd Row: Ashley Dallas, Diana Hughes, Caitlin Floyd, Dominic Angotti, Laura Heidler, Erin Knight, John Woods, Cole Perkins; 3rd Row: Megan Lee, Niki Kraska, Greg Ross, Ed Sablan, Guille Dabu, Jennifer Reid, Kathryn Diehl; 4th Row: Paul Best, Kim Vanek, Cliff Golon; 5th Row: Chris TerDoest, Christopher Barbauld, Joshua Diehl; 6th Row: Rod Grove, Steve Vanek



Tangled up, Junior Nicole Stompor balances as she places her foot on yellow. Besides sponsoring the Homecoming Dance, Student Government held the annual Goofy Games. In addition to giant Twister, students participated in the hula-hoop contest, the three-legged race, the pie eating contest and the pudding slide.



During the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, Seniors John Woods and Cliff Colon haul 50 pound bags of flour. Classes participated in the annual Thanksgiving food drive in order to collect food for local pantries. The fourth hour class that donated the most pounds of food won a free pizza party for their class. Mr. Jim Johnston's fourth hour Autoshop class won with a total donation of over 600 pounds.

With accuracy, Senior Jennifer Reid weighs a class's food donation. In all, MHS collected two buses of food for local food pantries. With Mrs. Rosellen Kozel taking charge of this year's Student Government, members also sold bus munchies, sponsored a teacher appreciation breakfast, organized the Christmas Wish List, went Christmas caroling at a nursing home, sponsored the Buddy Pictures and raised money for Riley Children's Hospital. Throughout these events, Student Government collaborated with other school clubs such as STAND, Quest and Natural Helpers.

There are so many activities and functions sponsored by the Student Government. I became president because I wanted to take part in all activities that we sponsor and make sure the students were taken care of.
-Senior Jenny Heidler

Our main goal was to increase Student Government's membership and visibility within the school and out in the community.
-Sponsor Mrs. Rosellen Kozel

FOR THE STUDENTS AND
BY THE STUDENTS

KEY CLUB

Sponsor: Mrs. Carrie Bedwell

1st Row: Jeremiah Ashe, Cliff Golon, Kasey Smith, Kendra Wilson, Melissa Hubbell, Janel Barsich, Lauren Huish, Ashley Washburn, Paul Best. 2nd Row: Natalie King, Kaye Smith, Candice Murphy, Devin Wilson, Sara Valdez, Waricha Watthanapha, Angela Merritt, Jessica Daniels, Allison Czubik, Nikkeya Harrell. 3rd Row: Candice Woods, Joi-Lyn Eller, Jasmine Dayon, LaShawna Beard, Adalya Moore, Donovan Kepchar, William Bandy, Mallory Cuevas, Melissa Turner, Lorna Blondet. 4th Row: Damara Hamlin, Lauren Strom, Laura Sopko, Taryn Neal, Crystina Perryman, Rebecca Parrish, Rebecca Turnes, Grace Rund, Alyssia Fortney, Deniel Dean. 5th Row: Jennifer Reid, Ricardo Hernandez, Dave Rooda, Randall Turner, Ryan Turner, Keith Murphy, Mrs. Bedwell, Jonathan Warus.



QUEST AND NATURAL HELPERS

Sponsor: Mr. Gerry Kasarda

1st Row: Amanda Degard, Chris TerDoest, Maegen Farmer; 2nd Row: Jackie Gurney, Alexandra Garritano, Kim Vanek, James Nicola; 3rd Row: Mr. Kasarda, Aariean Crawford, Danielle Huncleeroon, Cliff Golon



Children at Franciscan Day Care in Crown Point crowd around the Easter bunny (Senior Chad Pierce) for treats during the Quest-Natural Helpers visit in April. Members of Natural Helpers also visited the Alzheimer Unit there. They have also presented programs on stereotyping at Hobart and Emerson High Schools and conflict resolution and math skills at Miller and Wood Elementary Schools. This organization, under the sponsorship of Mr. Gerry Kasarda, assisted PNN in recognizing outstanding staff and worked with the Key Club to support the prom at the Senior Citizen Center.



GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY

Working as a team, Freshman Jeremy Dillingsley, Mrs. Amber Baron and Freshman Amr Latif stuff garbage and dead grass into the bag. Getting rid of the dead grass and dirty garbage helped to improve the looks of the school.



Campus Cleanup was a great experience. It showed a lot could be accomplished when people work together.
-President Senior Paul Best
Key Club

It was fun helping out at Campus Cleanup. Picking up cigarette butts and other disgusting garbage made me feel good about helping clean my school.
-Senior Jenny Heidler



If it weren't for the stench, Senior Tim Balko might even enjoy helping to clean up the campus. Balko found a muffler along the fence on the west side of the property.

To clean the high school grounds, Key Club Sponsor Mrs. Carrie Bedwell and Senior Justin Creech rake up dead grass. Mrs. Bedwell said, "We have a beautiful school that we are very proud of. The Key Club felt that it was important to give the campus a facelift after the winter months."

FCCLA

Sponsor: Ms. Carol A. VonBehren

1st Row: Rachael Thomas, Samantha Brazeau, Michaela Martin Bridges, Joia D. Warner, Laura Heidler; 2nd Row: Katie O'Brien, Emily Graun, Melissa Wadley, Dominic Angoiti; 3rd Row: Ms. VonBehren, Leanna Gottshall, Michelle Matheny, Randall Turner; 4th Row: Andy Christopher, Jesse P. Koon, Joajuana Hemphill, Kim Vanek.



FEA

Sponsor: Ms. Jennifer Niksich

1st Row: Allison Czubik, Deniel Dean, Chaunese Williams, Samantha Sullivan; 2nd Row: Melissa Jackson, Jonathan Warus, Lindsey Harrel; 3rd Row: Jon Wargo, Laura Sopko, Paul Best;



HERO

Sponsor: Ms. Carol A. VonBehren

1st Row: Tameshia Clark, Crystal Dilosa, Giovan Thomas, Krystal Edgington, Stephanie Hall; 2nd Row: Samantha Sullivan, Tylisha Roby, Jennifer Duggins, Michelle Phillips, Ebony Pope; 3rd Row: Brad Dow, Kevin Farmer, Jon Vergin, Eric Street.



GETTING ACTIVELY INVOLVED

As students wait for their turns to donate blood, they find other things to talk about. Seniors Breon Harris, Chris Garza and Jon Gutierrez are just three of the 132 students and teachers who donated. Gutierrez stated, "We discussed the good that will come from the pain that we experienced."

During the blood drive in December, 25 students helped the volunteers who donated blood. Seniors Casady Pruitt and Kathleen Szot showed that they are proud to be donors.



"This year has been a great learning experience. We have had many great projects and activities that allowed us to learn so many important techniques. Many should get involved next year."
-Senior Deniel Dean FCCIA

"This year we learned a lot about group work and patience. I had so much fun I wish this was not my last year."
-Senior Michelle Phillips

HERO



Members of FCCLA participated in the football Homecoming parade. Juniors Jacqueline Kish and Angie DeLong show Pirate pride as they wait for the fun to begin. The parade begins at Pierce Middle School and ends at MHS.

The HERO class sponsored two blood drives during the year. Promoting the blood drive was Senior Adam Stetson, who visited many classrooms to get more students involved.



Art Club

Sponsor: Mr. Terry Pratt

1st Row: Alexandra LaPinta, Naomi Magallan, Elena Estes, Amber Jimenez; 2nd Row: Amanda Cousino, Jeanette Fabian, Julianne Fabian; 3rd Row: Christopher Humes, Justin Singer, Cody Camp, Mr. Terry Pratt.



Newspaper

Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter

1st Row: Kate Santeramo, Ashley Lofton, Sarah Cardwell; 2nd Row: Janel Barsich, Morgan Zellers, Jacqueline Barsich, Molly Burt; 3rd Row: Marissa Walls, Tim Balko, Jenny Heidler.



Pirate News Network

Sponsor: Mr. Mark Ciesielski

1st Row: Kristine Paskash, Diana Hughes, Megan Pawl; 2nd Row: Cole Perkins, Jesse Koon, Brandon Mosley, Jeff Zweig; 3rd Row: Mark Daily, Jason Smith, Mr. Mark Ciesielski.

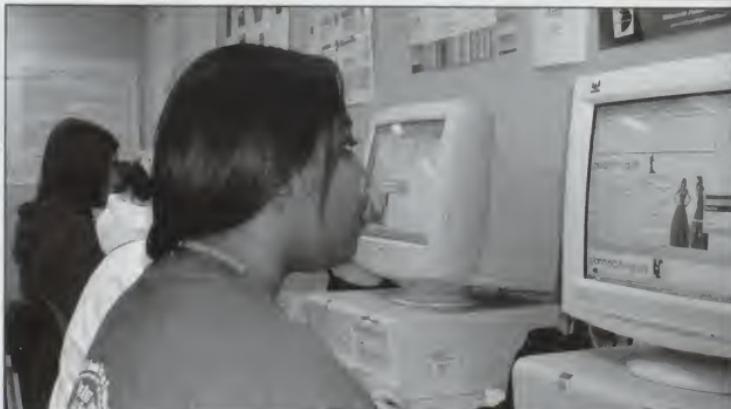


WMHS

Sponsor: Mr. Mark Ciesielski

1st Row: Kristine Paskash, Diana Hughes, Megan Pawl; 2nd Row: Carmen Pickett, Monique Navarro, Ashley Dallas, Jeff Zweig; 3rd Row: Jesse Koon, Brandon Mosley, Paul Best; 4th Row: Cole Perkins, Mark Daily, Jason Smith, Mr. Mark Ciesielski

Trying to make deadline, Junior Ashley Lofton adds the finishing touches to her page. Lofton was the opinion editor of *The Mirror* this year.





Detailing her project, Sophomore Alexandra LaPinta glazes the crevices of Snoopy's eye. Every detail is important on an art project.

Producing a comic book, Senior Justin Singer uses the computer to add color to his pages. Art students frequently use the computers to enhance their original masterpieces.



Working diligently, Senior Diana Hughes "mixes" her project for "The Friday Show." During her second year in PNN, she became the studio manager.

"I joined PNN because I want to go into broadcasting as a career and participating is a good preparation."
-Senior Diana Hughes

"My favorite parts of being in Art Club are the people, the nice teachers and all the fun we have."
-Senior Jeanette Fabian

STUDENTS EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH ART AND MEDIA



Students Against Destructive Decisions
Sponsor: Ms. Erin Mulloy

1st Row: Ricardo Hernandez, Ms. Mulloy. 2nd Row: Naomi Magallan, Samantha Wright, Megan Frasca.



Socially Together and Naturally Diverse

Sponsors: Mr. Daniel Lackey, Ms. Maria Lopez

1st Row: Damara Hamlin, Ashley Poling, Erin Ely, Mallory Cuevas, Kristina Ojleska, Samantha Loo, Jaclyn George, Waricha Watthanapha. 2nd Row: Breanna Williams, Melissa Turner-Wadley, Tiffany Taylor, Stephanie Thomas, Nicole Sparger, Keith Eaton, Cveta Lozevski, Joseph Mireles. 3rd Row: Randall L. Turner, Arlinda Nava-McCain, Hilary Marinich, Kim Vanek, Jennifer Reid, Claudia Nava-McCain, Nisha Patel. 4th Row: Gabe Ziegler, Sohail Azeem, Daniel Nieman, Ricardo Herdanez.

To help diversify the festivities, the Family Christian Center Gospel Choir takes the crowd away with a heart-filled performance at the International Dinner. Senior Damara Hamlin said, "This was the first year for the dinner and it exceeded all of our expectations for the night.

We had a great crowd, great performances, great food, and next year should be even better."

The MHS Jazz Band, Pierce STAND members, salsa dancers, Indian dancers, poetry readers, Macedonian dancers and a Scandinavian children's choir were all part of the show. The dinner was in the Pierce Cafetorium March 21. Guest Senior Florian Aeschimann, a native of Switzerland, said, "The show was great and it was definitely worth \$10 and a Friday night."



SADD & STAND
SERVE TO ENLIGHTEN STUDENTS
ABOUT LIFE'S CHOICES

After months of morning and after-school rehearsals, STAND members Senior Nicole Sparger, Freshman Joseph Mireles, Junior Gabe Ziegler and Junior Ricardo Hernandez perform a skit on racism. Students wrote and performed several scripts on a variety of "isms" like sexism, racism, ableism and even heterosexism at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Convention. The students participated in diversity workshops, listened to motivational speakers and watched other schools perform skits. This year, the ADL leaders were so impressed with STAND that they honored the students with copies of a book by one of the speakers from the convention.



The best part about being in SADD is being out there and able to meet and associate with a bigger variety of people.

-Junior Ricardo Hernandez

I participated in many community service projects. Community service hours look great on the college application. I love being in the diversity club because I get to meet people of different cultures and ethnicity.

-Senior Waricha Watthanapha



To win a \$25 gift card from Best Buy, a group of SADD members battle on the court during the 3-on-3 tournament. Seventeen teams went to the upstairs gym November 1 to help promote Red Ribbon Week and to compete. Sponsor Ms. Erin Mulloy said, "The event was supposed to be an opportunity for students to have fun without the pressure of drugs or alcohol." This year, the winning team consisted of Sophomore Curtis Wyatt, Senior Carl Hurd and Sophomore Anthony Dennis.

While helping to bring the less fortunate some necessities, Counselor and Sponsor Mr. Danny Lackey and Freshman Cveta Lozevski pack up clothes at the clothing drive sponsored by STAND. STAND members participate in several community service activities, earning them recognition as community leaders. As Freshman Joey Mireles said, "Not only do you get community service hours, but you also get a lot of memories! STAND is a club for those interested in diversity and who want to have fun." The club members meet once a week and often discuss current racial events.



Getting the next play, Senior Jon Gutierrez listens carefully to the teams coaches Seniors Eric Nolan, Lindsey Gabriel and Igor Ristevski. The game is a time for students and teachers to relax and take a break from their busy school schedules.



Showing off their spirit, the senior cheerleaders, Jamie Sweeney, Mary Kate Lucas, Diana Hughes, Christine Aloia, Jill Porter, Monique Navarro, Cora Gray, Casady Pruitt, Kathleen Szot, and Stephanie Bigelow take time to pose for the camera. The girls took time and made t-shirts and signs to help cheer the seniors to victory.



Refusing to acknowledge the teachers, the students hold newspapers in front of their faces while the teachers are being announced. This is a time when students can trash-talk the teachers and not get in trouble for it. "Being around my friends and the best superfans in Merrillville's history is something I will never forget. When we hid behind the newspapers while the faculty was being announced was a good way to end our senior year," stated Senior Dan Sierra.

SENIORS MAKE MEMORIES

Every year without fail, trash-talking fills the halls of MHS in preparation for the annual Senior-Faculty Basketball game. This year was no different as the Class of 2003 and the faculty squared off in a basketball game to earn bragging rights. After last year's success for the seniors, this year's class attempted to make it two years in a row. However, led by the skills of Mr. Don Baron, Mr. Todd Roberts, and former MHS player Mr. Zac Wells, the faculty outplayed the seniors on their way to a 32-19 victory.

Despite the outcome, the game provided a chance for the seniors to bond as their time to leave MHS was drawing near. Students held up the familiar newspapers during faculty line-up introductions and the senior coaches Igor Ristevski, Lindsey Gabriel and Eric Nolan attempted to guide their fellow seniors on the court. Ristevski even played the part by wearing Head Boys' Basketball Coach Jim East's famous purple jacket.

"Although we played hard, the unity of the teachers and their well established zone defense hurt us," Ristevski commented after the game. "It also didn't help that we didn't get too many calls and that we couldn't hit the broad side of a barn."

At the half, senior dance team members and cheerleaders performed for one last time on the basketball floor.

"It was a great feeling to go out and perform in front of the school again. I especially enjoyed cheering with my best friends," commented Senior Cheerleader Christine Aloia.

Although the Senior-Faculty Basketball game was memorable for the Senior Class, the faculty had the final word this year.

"It didn't hurt that the seniors were only worried about offense and not defense," Mr. Baron noted. "Last time I checked there are two aspects to the game."

Casady Pruitt and Igor Ristevski



...BUT TEACHERS PREVAIL

Determined to dominate after "talking the talk," Mr. Don Baron and Senior Aleks Sotiroski crave to "walk the walk." Both Mr. Baron and Sotiroski went on PNN and cut the opposing team down with personal remarks, even after the game. Mr. Baron even peaked his "Top Ten List" with the faculty's victory over the seniors.

Hearing the screams from the cheerleaders, Senior Temidayo Macarthy fights to get the rebound with Mr. Tony Klimczak. The two may get along on the football field, but not on the court.



I was very pleased with our victory and compliment the students on their game effort.
-Mr. Dan Marcus

It was fun and all, but we were very unorganized and the guys were more worried about impressing people rather than playing as a team.
-Senior Desiree McDaniel



Winning is all Mr. Zac Wells had in mind after losing to last year's seniors. He wasn't going to let anyone stop him. Not even teammate Mr. Tony Bartolomeo. Mr. Wells lead the teachers to another victory against the seniors.

The Senior Faculty game is something students look forward to when starting High School. Senior Wade McKinley concentrates on his next move while being closely guarded by Mr. Tim James.

Saving the last dance, Seniors Jamie Sweeney, Lindsay Warus and Jamie McLaughlin decide to make their last MHS dance the most meaningful one of all. The girls were committed to having fun the entire weekend, from pictures to dinner to the weekend activities.



I didn't have any expectations, because in my eyes everybody on court could have won.
-Junior A.J. Davis

I was so surprised and honored to have been chosen as queen. Everyone on court deserved it.
-Junior Carol Newell



Enjoying the moment, Seniors Brittany Williams and Bradley Woodward share one of the many slow dances together. Just like many other students, Williams and Woodward decided to attend the dance just as friends.

Taking their first steps as king and queen, Juniors A.J. Davis and Carol Newell prepare to lead their peers through the Grand March. Davis said, "I didn't have any expectations, because in my eyes everybody on court could have won."



Enjoying his last high school dance, Senior Paulo Laorden shares a laugh with his girlfriend, Jessica Recchia, a junior who attends Chesterton High School. For many seniors, the memories from prom will always be remembered.

Always will the students of MHS remember and forever keep with them the memories of their prom night. These memories were brought on by a series of events. Months before, sponsors of the dance got together with students to come up with ideas for the dance. With basic ideas decided, such as the theme "Always and Forever," other plans moved on.

All stayed the same this year except the location of the Grand March. In solution to problems brought up in the past, the Grand March was held in the main gym. Sponsor Mrs. Michelle Sulich explained, "This was an excellent way to have the grand march. This way the parents wouldn't interfere with the students." Parents and students gathered in the gym for the crowning of the King and Queen. Following the announcement of the winners Juniors A.J. Davis and Carol Newell were crowned King and Queen. "I was thinking I can't believe actually won," said Davis.

After the crowning, prom goers were escorted to Avalon Manor. Here the students were able to dance all night and enjoy gifts being thrown out. Many students took with them unforgettable memories.

Senior Peter Brasovan stated, "The memories I made during prom are ones that can never be forgotten."

Mary Kate Lucas

'ALWAYS AND FOREVER'

Girls just wanna have fun, Juniors Tianna Coleman and Carol Newell steal the spotlight on the dance floor. The girls were both members of the 2003 Prom court, but Newell received the queen's title.



Awaiting the Prom King and Queen decision, Junior Prom court members Tianna Coleman, A.J. Davis, Heidi Hammond, Dragan Trajkovski, Carol Newell, Bojan Jovanovic, April Samuels and Brandon Mosley look onto their classmates, friends and family. Changing tradition, the school tried a new route for the Grand March through the gym.



Feelin' the music, Senior Desiree McDaniel and Merrillville 2002 graduate, Jermaine Johnson, show off their moves on the dance floor. Many prom-goers chose to bring past graduates and/or students from other schools to share their special night.



Shower of Tales



Junior Tim Sylva
and Senior Nicole Sprague



Senior Kathleen Hiltz



Senior Jacqueline Lyons



Junior Courtney Albright
and Senior Diana Hudson
Senior Markeisha
Kendrick



Bang on the drums, stroke the piano keys,
dance all over the stage, reach the high
notes, act the part, read the notes, bow the
strings, count the beats, tap your foot, tune
the instruments, switch an octave,
synchronize the instruments, twirl the flag,
learn the lines, march to the music,
practice for the concert, perfect the
costume, rehearse the role, fix the flute, a
storm of ways to perform at MHS.



Pep band members:



Conducting members of the pep band

Sophomore Jessie Fowcett and
Senior Michael Akle



th



What was your favorite part of the show, and why?



"My favorite part of the show was the music because it was 40's music, and I love 40's music."

Senior Emily Graun - trumpet

Final words

"My favorite part of the show was the different styles of music we played. It had one of those funky kind of beats."

Senior Marvin Torrence - tuba



"My favorite part of the show was the way it all came together because the show represented all the hard work and effort everyone took on. We all took away lots of great memories from the show."

Senior Aubrey Brainard - drum major

STUDENTS PRESENT



Marching along to the beat, Senior Lee Cotton shows his Pirate spirit. "Marching Band was a great experience. I had a lot of fun times," explained Cotton.



At attention, Senior Drum Majors Adam Lewis, Aubrey Brainard and Caleb Bateman (left photo inset) await the director's signal.



Tapping to the music, Senior Kathleen Hyzy and Freshman Shannon Frey (right photo) enhance the half-time performance.

Showing talent

With the band and Color Guard members together, the half-time show was a spectacular event. Showing their "moves," Seniors Brittney Stoica and Kyle Beshears dance together to the sounds of "On the Town."



"ON THE TOWN"

Preparing for their exquisite dance routine, Seniors Treyv Ramos and Jessica Wineke check out the crowd. As the only two seniors on the Dance Team, they worked hard to make their last home football game a memorable one.



Tic Tac Toe, three in a row. Forming a row of Pirates are Freshman Aimee Ortega and Sophomores Kalhryn Diehl and Elena Estes. These flute players were always helpful to each other on the field.



The wind is blowing. The lights are shimmering. The crowd is watching, and the judges are ready. Silently, anxious band members await instructions from the drum majors to begin their performance. The drum majors look at each other and give the signal. Suddenly, a burst of music dances through the air, and the show begins.

"I watched the musical "On the Town," and that's how I got the idea for this year's show," said Band Director Mr. Bob Meyers.

"This was a really different show from what we were used to," Senior Sharon Hawkins remarked. "The band had to learn how to crab step, which is the way the drumline marches."

The Marching Band included the band members, the Color Guard and the Dance Team. This year, the Dance Team and Color Guard were fused together to create one big Color Guard. The band received a Division II rating at the District Competition at Concord. In order to advance, bands must receive Division I ratings.

"The weekend of District had to be the highlight of this year's season," Mr. Meyers said. "I was also impressed with the commitment level that the kids showed after that competition. Even though we did not advance, they worked hard at practices so that they could do well at the Plymouth Invitational."

"Seeing the crowd give us a standing ovation made me feel good about our performance. We worked really hard," Senior Christina Peschke noted.

The goals for next year's season include creating a schedule that eliminates conflicts with other activities at school, improving attendance and receiving Division I ratings at both District and Regional competitions.

Although only a few seniors participated in Marching Band, those who did said they will miss the experiences they shared in the band. Both Hawkins and Peschke said that they would miss the friends that they made in band and the good times they had together.

"I'll miss the bus trips and the flute section the most," Peschke said. "The flutes had lots of fun together and we grew really close."

Damara Hamlin



With all the screaming and commotion, Seniors Abby Hacker and Christina Peschke still manage to concentrate on their musical notes. These two seniors helped to create the sounds of the show.

TWIRLING TO SUCCESS

Twirling a flag is not exactly as easy as it looks. Just ask a member of the Color Guard team.

"This year they bolted our flags and made them heavier," stated Senior Damara Hamlin. "We had to learn how to get used to the new weight."

Even though they were missing a coach, the team had a fun and successful season. For the first time, the Dance Team and the Color Guard joined together in order to make the football games a more interesting event.

They were one of the most dominant elements of the half-time show.

In order to work together and move in sequence, the Color Guard members took dance classes to learn some of the Dance Team's styles, and the Dance Team had extra practices in order to learn to use the flags correctly.

In order to improve and get their routine right, the team practiced three or more times a week.

Junior Courtney Albright explained, "I try to practice every day, but if I can't, I practice at least three of four times a week."

The Color Guard had many members who are very dedicated in trying to improve the squad.

Senior Night was an important night, so the team worked extra hard to make sure they had their routine perfectly in sequence.

"The season was awesome and filled with memories," explained Senior Brittney Stoica, "but the Senior Night festivities were overall the best."

Lauren Strom and Sarah Cardwell

As Junior Courtney Albright gets ready for the performance, she shows that coordination is everything.



Extra, Extra. Read all about it. Freshman Jessica Savin, Junior Courtney Albright, Senior Schmekia Hinton, Junior Katie Wilson, Senior Mallorie Mitchell and Junior Ayriole Frost are all dolled up as reporters for their Winter Guard routine.



Seniors Brittney Stoica, Damara Hamlin and Junior Katie Wilson get ready for the entrance of the Football Team.

Performing for the crowd twirling a flag



Spinning with all of her might, Junior Katie Wilson shows that she can keep her balance and show a smile at the same time. Learning how to spin and move to sets on the field at the same time is essential to a good Color Guard.



Hanging out in the back room before performing their Senior Night routine, the Senior Color Guard members, along with the two Senior Dance Team members, are all smiles. There were 12 Senior Color Guard members who said goodbye to MHS this year.



The Color Guard is no joke this year. Junior Ayrrole Frost and Senior Mallorie Mitchell make spinning and throwing look easy.

Spinning away

QA What was the funniest memory of the season?



"The funniest memory of the season was when I was supposed to get up and do my routine, but I got stuck in the ground and I couldn't get up. I felt like such a klutz."

Junior Courtney Albright

"The funniest memory was when I was performing, I threw my flag up in the air and it came down and hit me right in the head."

Senior Katie O'Brien



Final words

"We were supposed to eat at a Food Court in some mall after a competition, and we got totally lost. We were starving, and the bus kept passing all these other places we could have eaten at. It drove us crazy!"

Senior Damara Hamlin

Performing for the audience during the fall play

"My most memorable memory of the 'Pirates of Penzance' was the role I got to play. I got to act like I was a man instead of a woman. It was classic." Sophomore Jenni Festa



"There were many memorable parts in the play, but my having to learn all my lines was the most memorable part. I never thought it would be that hard."

Junior A.J. Davis



"My most memorable memory of the fall play is when the background trees got stuck on the set in the middle of the performance. Everyone saw and started laughing and shouting."

Senior Jaime Ortiz



What was the most memorable part of "The Pirates of Penzance"?

Final words

Acting away

Dancing arm in arm, Junior A.J. Davis and Seniors Jaime Ortiz and Sarah Kennedy sing while playing the characters of the Pirate King, Frederick and Ruth. Many hours of practice and rehearsal go into learning the songs and choreography for a successful production.



Expressing their love to one another, Mabel and Frederick, played by Seniors Laura Sopko and Jaime Ortiz, steal a moment for each other in the night. The role of Mabel, along with the role of Ruth, was double-cast and the actors alternated performances.

Clasping hands, Senior Jaime Ortiz and Sophomore Jenni Festa sing to each other as the character of Frederick explains his longing to Ruth to discover if other ladies exist beyond the confines of Pirate life. On shore, Frederick later meets his love, Mabel, a daughter of the Major General.



'PIRATES OF PENZANCE' DAZZLES

Playing their parts, Junior A.J. Davis, Senior Kathleen Szot, Junior Jennifer Mustafa and Senior Jaime Ortiz act out a scene together on the stage of the musical production. "It was fun getting to know new people and also performing with them," said Szot.



The Major General, played by Sophomore Michael Finchum, speaks to the band of Pirates, played by Junior Scott Shelhart, Senior Keith Murphy, Freshman Daniel Nieman, Senior Christopher Green and Sophomore Matthew Sopko. Finchum later impresses the audience with his singing performance of "Pirates of Penzance" song "The Modern Major General."



Blowing into his handkerchief, Sophomore Michael Finchum is consoled by his daughters played by Senior Felicia Parks, Junior Pauline Katsouros, Junior Danielle Cavanek, Sophomore Anna Grana, Junior Megan Kao, Junior Samantha Lee, Senior Julie Trimble, Junior Melissa Paniagras, Senior Kathleen Szot and Senior Laura Sopko.

Manning the controls, Junior Katie Wilson and Student Director Senior Caleb Bateman adjust the sound and lighting while the actors perform "Pirates of Penzance." Working behind the scenes is as critical to a musical success as the actors' performing on stage.



During the fall, the Dramatic Society and Choral Department worked hand in hand to put on the operetta, "The Pirates of Penzance."

A collaborative effort among Mrs. Susan Emig, Mr. Roger Emig, Mrs. Melinda Reinhart, Mrs. Beverley Seaver and their students, the cast performed this operetta only four times, but they practiced everyday for six weeks for about two and a half to four hours per day.

This story centers on Frederick, a pirate who is approaching his 21st birthday. Once he turns 21, he no longer has to be a pirate. To add a twist to the plot, Frederick was born during leap year, so he is actually only five and a half years old. The operetta features comedic scenes and includes a secondary romantic plot.

Although this operetta was challenging, when performance day came around, the cast called the play a success.

Sarah Kennedy, who played Ruth, the comedic female lead, said, "Everyone doubted us, but we really pulled it together."

Brandon Waldrop, a member of the chorus said, "We did pretty well considering that it was such a hard play for a high school to do."

The director of the play, Mrs. Seaver, stated, "I thought they were fantastic. I sat out every performance and just enjoyed the show, and that is what a good director should be able to do."

Monique Navarro

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES



In order to produce the best harmony, students who share the same voice range stand together as a section. The Concert Choir performs under the direction of Mrs. Melinda Reinhart.



All smiles after a successful performance, Freshmen Niki Kraska, Stephanie Pavlish, Emily Rodriguez, Callie Lucas, Nicole Vowell, Holly Floyd, Erica Aloia, Melissa Hubbell and Jessica Francis pose for a picture. The performers were satisfied with the results of the concert.

During the Christmas concert, Freshmen Brittany Jones, Bobby Tate and Stephanie Pavlish act out the song "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." Jones and Pavlish try to keep everyone quiet while Santa Claus is trying to sleep.



Before the rest of the choir joins in, Freshman Breana Hendrix sings a solo to begin "White Christmas." Singing a solo allows the performer time to shine in front of the audience.

The sounds of singing can be heard echoing down the hall of the choral department as the Varsity and Concert Choirs gather. Each of the choirs meet and share their enjoyment of singing and performing to audiences.

The Varsity Choir consists of freshmen girls just entering their musical years. Varsity Choir is the starting point for the freshmen where they learn the basics of singing, including techniques like pitch, dynamics, rhythm and blending. The Varsity Choir then uses its skills in concert performances throughout the school year. Varsity Choir member Freshman Callie Lucas said, "The best part of choir is performing at concerts because we get to sing, dance and show off all of our hard work."



The Concert Choir is made up of both boys and girls who either prefer not to sacrifice as much after-school time or are preparing for the upper level show choirs. "I was in middle school choir and I wanted to see what choir was like at the high school at the different levels," commented Concert Choir member Freshman Jared Perkins. The Concert Choir performs their talents at four different concerts, with the emphasis placed on the Christmas and the spring performances.

Choir members not only shine in their own concerts, but also contribute their vocals to musical productions, including this year's operetta "Pirates of Penzance." Participating in the play allowed the choral and drama departments to combine their talents.

Performing for the audience during the holiday concert



During the concert, the Varsity Choir ensemble sings a harmonious melody. The audience enjoyed many songs they performed, including "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Singing away



Varsity Choir-Alto



Concert Choir

Sponsor: Mr. Jerauld Reinhart

First Row: Brittney Blue, Sabrina Hennessy, Tom John, Donald Toth, Brendan Delaney, Alfredo Arredondo, Jens Douglas, Kim Uzelac, Jennifer Griffin, Taura Turner. Second Row: Leah Griffin, Tiffany Jones, Brittany Caldwell, Joseph Mireles, Lee Dixon, Jared Perkins, Anthony Dennis, Kelly Simanson, Genna Wirtz. Third Row: Stephanie Thomas, Naimah Ali, Carl Hurd, Curtis Wyatt, Colin McDonald, Daniel Nieman, Blake Sohocki, Melissa Corman, Shana Williams. Fourth Row: Jasmine Jackson, Shaina Tucker, Robert Tate, Michael Andrews, Joseph Purevich, Michael McMillin, Harry Boskamp, LaShawnn Beard, Davriana Wilson.



Rapping from the soul, Sophomore Tiffany Jones uses gestures to bring some emotion to the performance. This solo was performed during "Happy Kwanzaa."

Sponsor: Mr. Jerauld Reinhart

First Row: Beverly Munchenburg, Rosalinda Ayala, Denise Coleman, Elaine Hall, Cambria Hollingsworth, Samantha Ratley, Janessa Buhse, Raquel Guerrero. Second Row: Renee Schmellmeyer, Nicole Vowell, Heather Zurek, Lindsey Trock, Ashley Thomas, Melanie Mangrum, Brittny Hampton. Third Row: Simone McKinney, Lauren Rees, Krystle McMullan, Crystal White, Ali Conquest, Katie Kaplar. Fourth Row: Beth Lashenik, Lindsey McIlroy, Andrea Clanton, Kimberly Barnes, Cveta Lozevski, Travonda Fleming, Tanequa Taylor.



Varsity Choir-Soprano

Sponsor: Mr. Jerauld Reinhart

First Row: Kamai Westbrooks, Emily Czekala, Brittany Jones, Sheena Mitchell, Natalie Madrid, Vicki McGee, Emily Rodriguez, Emiley Hunt, Alison Moore. Second Row: Heather Kovach, Courtney Miller, Samantha Kaiser, Erica Aloia, Stephanie Pavlish, Callie Lucas, Jessica Francis, Dana Sylva. Third Row: Rosie Assibe, Paige Patterson, Breana Hendrix, Megan Lee, Morgan Gill, Renee Ragon, Brianna Williams, Michelle Cutrel. Fourth Row: Ashley Evenson, Christina Kratimenos, Melissa Hubbell, Sharon Mercado, Nicole Hansbury, Rachel Hayes, Holly Floyd, Niki Kraska, Amanda Broertjes.

Performing for the audience during the winter concert

Choraleens



First row: Nicole Murphy, Sarah Kennedy, Marsheena Kendrick, Samantha Yurechko, April Graves, Trey Ramos, Rebecca Longacre, Samantha Loo, Christine Aloia, Fontaine Stegall. Second row: Demetria Massengill, Stephanie Bigelow, Jennifer Mustafa, Ben Graves, Jeff Zweig, Jaime Ortiz, Brandon Waldrop, Isaiah Mercado, Keith Eaton, Jennifer Sivka, Megan Kors, Elexas Wise. Third Row: Kathleen Szot, Felicia Parks, Heather Phillippe, Jesse York, Scott Shelhart, Vincent Cole, Shaun Wood, Randy Johnson, Julie Trimble, Danielle Ovanek, Pauline Katsouros, Rebecca Ternes. Fourth row: Laura Sopko, Kris Greene, Kyle Loudermill, Matt Sopko, Nolan Buck, A.J. Davis, Keith Murphy, Missy Paniaguas.

Velveteens



First row: Tara Johnson, Felice Graves, Jenni Festa, Casey Sieb, Katherine Montalbano, Amanda Brunn. Second Row: Jennifer Agoris, Jacqueline Hartford, Taneisha Kirk, Aimee Street, Jade Pickett, Carmen Pickett, Christine Davis. Third row: Asia Howerton, Ineke McMillan, Shakiya Wiley, Nicole Olivares, Jessica Sims. Fourth row: Andrea Rainaldi, Heather Cooper, Nikki Jimenez, Christine Bynum, Tristen Congress, Evangelina Kojo.

Vocalleens



First row: Ben Graves, Rebecca Ternes, Jaime Ortiz, Sarah Kennedy, Christine Aloia, Brandon Waldrop, Stephanie Bigelow, Keith Eaton. Second row: A.J. Davis, Kathleen Szot, Vincent Cole, Rebecca Longacre, Isaiah Mercado, Julie Trimble, Randy Johnson, Megan Kors, Jesse York. Third row: Scott Shelhart, Missy Paniaguas, Jennifer Mustafa, Jeff Zweig, Laura Sopko, Kris Greene.

Always giving the audience a laugh, Choral Director Mr. Roger Emig entertains the audience while informing them of upcoming songs. Mr. Emig directs his choirs in concerts, contests and challenging performances.



Showing the audience a whole new way of looking at music, Seniors Trey Ramos and Sarah Kennedy harmonize their musical talents on the piano. Both Ramos and Kennedy have years of experience playing the piano.



Singing away

In perfect harmony, Seniors Laura Sopko, Stephanie Bigelow, Julie Trimble and Kathleen Szot sing in unison at the Winter Holiday Concert. The Winter Concert provided many talented acts for the crowd's enjoyment.



SUPREME SINGING SENSATIONS

How does a young man become a member of a high school chorus?

On the first day of school he turns into the wrong classroom.

That may be true of other schools, but MHS has plenty of boys who really want to be there. The Choralteens and Vocalteens are co-ed partner classes, while Velveteens is girls only. There are about 15 boys participating this year, many of which have been in choir for four years.

"It's amazing when I think about how fast these years have flown by. Being the oldest students, we share the greatest responsibility in teaching and helping some of the underclassmen," said Senior Brandon Waldrop.

The girls, of course, play an important role, too. For both classes, students have said everyone is so close it is more fun than work.

Senior Julie Trimble said, "Choir is such an awesome class and you meet great people. Since you have had the class with the same people for four years, you really become a family."

This was not just an ordinary choir course. The classes competed throughout the year in contests, put on out-of-school performances, participated in plays, conducted concerts and even went on a trip to New York during Spring Break. These classes can have up to three practices a week with their choreographer, 2000 graduate Robin Childress. Not only did the students practice hard, but they also improved their academic intelligence while doing so. Researchers have found that students who reported consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music during the middle and high school years show significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12.

"It's one of the greatest forms of expression," Senior Brandon Waldrop said. "It has also been proven that music students have the highest levels of higher-order thinking."

Cora Gray

Singing "Away in a Manger," Senior Keith Murphy and Juniors Ben Graves and A. J. Davis astonish the crowd with their talent. The three also collaborated in a performance in the Revue.



Concentrating on his solo, Junior Ben Graves wows the audience with his spectacular voice. Graves also displayed his talent by winning PNN's show, "Merrillville Idol."

Hitting a high note, Junior Jennifer Mustafa accompanies Junior Isaiah Mercado in a breathtaking performance. Mustafa and Mercado never hesitate to show off their singing ability.



Displaying her singing ability, Senior Fontaine Stegall awes the crowd with her exquisite skills. Stegall is one of the Choralteens' many talented soloists.



As people from all over Merrillville file into Reinhart Auditorium, the performers prepare for the highly anticipated show. After the commotion diminishes, the performers are ready to go. After weeks of endless rehearsals, the talented students of MHS are ready to "show their stuff." Senior Laura Sopko and Junior Ben Graves worked hard together in order to perform with perfection.

"Ben's voice fit the song perfectly, and we had fun performing for everyone," said Sopko.

There were many great performances and plenty of excitement for everyone to enjoy. There are more than just the performers in the making of the Revue. "Techies" were needed backstage to help make the performance run smoothly. People were also needed to run the spotlights and sound booth.

"I love being a backstage techie. I can't act, so I might as well help run backstage," said Senior Ashley McNeil.

The Revue is the Dramatic Society's biggest fundraiser of the year.

"It was very successful. We've raised more money than any other Revue," said production team member Sophomore Alexandra Garritano.

The show gave the audience everything from a capella songs to dance routines to "Hot Beats" and finally, to end the show, the band "Thanks To Nothing." With all of the acts put together, the show was something you would not want to miss.

Lauren Strom

Performing a duet, Senior Jaime Ortiz and Junior Jennifer Mustafa entertain students by singing "Nobody Wants To Be Lonely" by Ricky Martin and Christina Aguilera.



"Hot Beats," composed of Juniors Ricardo Hernandez, Antonio Becerra, Justin Grzybowski and Sophomore Brandon Grzybowski perform a comedy rap.

'SLIGHTLY OFF'



Dancing to "She's in Love With the Boy" by Trisha Yearwood, Junior Katie Wilson performs her flag routine. Wilson also helped work the sound booth for the Revue.

BROADWAY'



Singing "I Will Always Love You" by Whitney Houston, Junior Marsheena Kendrick shows her talent. Kendrick was also runner-up in this year's first "Merrillville Idol."

Taking his position, Junior Isaiah Mercado prepares himself for his dance to "Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson.



Feeling the music, Sophomore Andrea Vela sings "I'm Going Down." Vela and partner, Junior Jodi Suggs, helped get the crowd moving.



Lighting up the stage, Junior Ben Graves and Senior Laura Sopko awe the crowd with their version of "Come What May." This song was chosen from the musical "Moulin Rouge."

Showing talent



What was your favorite act of the show and why?

"My favorite act of the Revue was "One Sweet Day," which was sung by Senior Keith Murphy, Juniors Keith Eaton, Ben Graves, A.J. Davis and Marsheena Kendrick. They sang it perfectly." Senior Aariean Crawford.

Final words



"My favorite act of the Revue was the band "Thanks To Nothing." The band played great, and I am friends with the band." Freshman Raymond Duttweiler



"My favorite act of the show was Isaiah Mercado. He had great dance moves and really got the crowd moving." Junior Tiffany McCauley



Director: Mr. John Bradford
1st Row: Jeff Ortiz, Evelyn Lape, Lisa DeLaRosa, Ebony Holly, Jessica Parker, Alison Dyer. **2nd Row:** Brian Albee, Amber Fleming, Eleni Anton, Kassandra Kluga, Tricia Lakatos, Susie Youngren, Steven Ruschak. **3rd Row:** Jamie Thomas, Angelique Gruchmal, Jamie Parker, Irene Tinoco, Gagandeep Kaur, Eric Freeman, Cara Fejes, Randall Aleman. **4th Row:** Krystle Gill, Chris Madison, Christine Hanson, Mark Wieneke, Ashly Janovick, Joseph Sobek, Angela East. **Not Pictured:** Melissa Rivera, Lindsey Nosich.



Director: Mr. John Bradford
1st Row: Arnie Valdez, Sumayyah Karim, Nicole Sparger, Marissa Bankston, Michelle Danko, Josef Delacruz. **2nd Row:** Thomas Slivka, Michael Binder, Jeannelle Moreno, Mallory Homala, Pauline Petruch, Alexandra Garritano, Courtney Albright, Ayesha Basemore. **3rd Row:** Amber Kaste, Michael Finchum, Hilary Marinich, April Samuels, Melissa Velazco, Katie Wilson, Elizabeth Donelson, Guille Dabu, Paul Best. **4th Row:** Joseph Jordan, James Kelly, Steve Doxas, Daniel Padberg, John Kedziora, Michael Berta, Justin Stanley, Geoff Lalic.

Showing talent

Working together.
 Seniors Nicole Sparger and Freddie Dobry play their cellos. The cellos play a variation of the melody or a counter melody. Junior Ayriole Frost adds to their tune with her violin. The band joined the orchestra for this year's concert.



Trying not to miss a note.
Senior Michael Berta plays the violin and provides the melody for the orchestra's music.



Senior Geoff Lalic plays the bass, which provides a low, quiet sound that is good for chords. Lalic has been involved in orchestra throughout high school.



OUTSTANDING

Building up to unison in melody

Waiting for
their cue, Senior
Shivon Dosas
and Junior
Courtney
Albright look to
Mr. John
Bradford for the
signal to begin
playing.
Students in all
grades provide
the music for
the Christmas
Concert.



Cellos add dimension to the melody. Cellists
Freshman Jessica Parker, Sophomores Jeffrey Ortiz
and Allison Dyer perform during the winter concert.



First and second violinists glance at their
music as they present their winter concert.
Both orchestra classes join together to perform
certain selections at their concerts.

Strings plucking, bows moving, and cases clunking. All of these sounds can be heard coming from the orchestra room. Orchestra students dedicate their time to three main concerts. They work both in and out of class to prepare for their fall and winter concerts and their Spring Strings concert. Special concerts serve as practices for Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA).

Sophomore Mark Wieneke, a member of the intermediate orchestra, said, "I joined orchestra in sixth grade. I liked how the violin sounded."

Having fun in the sun, orchestra students enjoyed a trip to Florida during Spring Break. The orchestra also participated in activities such as solos, small ensembles and large ensembles at the ISSMA Solo/Ensemble contest. Their hard work paid off, earning many of them advancements to state contest.

Three seniors, Michael Berta, Michael Gonzalez and Geoff Lalic, were victorious with a first place win at state. They were part of a large ensemble with fourteen other students. "It was very satisfying," said Gonzalez.

Orchestra director Mr. John Bradford finds the contest a learning experience for the students in terms of independent practice and chamber ensembles, where there is no conductor and the players are responsible for the ensemble.

The orchestras also compete in a full orchestra contest, with members from the band. Mr. Bradford decided to try something new this year, something he called "Big Mop" rehearsals. These rehearsals were held every Monday or Tuesday after Solo/Ensemble until Spring Break to clean different parts of the music. This way the entire orchestra could get together and have a full rehearsal, instead of just parts of the orchestra working at one time.

As the year came to an end, the seniors and Mr. Bradford began to remember the good times they shared the past four years: countless study periods spent together, field trips and hanging out after concerts. Senior Geoff Lalic stated, "I have had a great time being in orchestra. I take with me many memories that I will cherish all my life."

Mary Kate Lucas

ORCHESTRA

'THE LAST LEAF'



Staring at his blank palette, Old Behrman (Junior Jon Wargo) waits for the inspiration for his masterpiece. Ironically, when the inspiration finally comes, his own death accompanies it. His masterpiece was the "last leaf."



As Sue (Junior Courtney Allbright) tries to comfort her sickly friend Johns (Sophomore Sharise Rogers), Johns says that death will come when the last leaf falls. Yet neither seems to notice that the "last leaf" never flutters or shakes when the wind blows and the rain falls.

Members of the Dramatic Society performed more than just fall and spring plays. After all of the hard work and commotion from the fall play had ended, the students involved with acting decided to take on another task.

The next goal was to perform the Winter-One acts written by O'Henry. The One Acts consisted of four sepa-

rate plays that all had similar plots and featured Henry's ironic twists.

"The Winter-One Acts was a great way to show off the new talent and the talent of those who do not normally get main parts in the main stage productions," said Senior Student Director Jaime Ortiz.



'THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF'

After the initial excitement of his kidnapping, Red Chief (Junior Jonathan Warus, left photo) coaxes one of his kidnappers, Bill (Senior Caleb Bateman), to play a game with him. Little did Bill know, however, that Red Chief plans to make him his horse. Sam (Sophomore Michael Finchum, right photo) and Bill hide behind newspapers while they scope out this small town. Sam has found

the perfect little boy to kidnap and ransom. In this dramatic adaptation of O. Henry's short story, two middle aged men, Sam and Bill, plan to capture the nephew of the richest man in town. However, Johnny (better known as Red Chief), turns out to be a real pain, so much much of a pain, that in the end, Sam and Bill pay Red Chief's uncle to take him back.

Performing for the audience during 'O. Henry's Full House'

'THE GIFT OF THE MAGI'



James Dillingham Young (Senior Caleb Bateman) looks at the prized pocket watch that he inherited from his grandfather, while his wife, Della (Junior Alexandra Garritano) teases him about always showing off his watch. Later, James pawns the watch to buy Della tortoise shell combs for her long hair.



Ironically, Della (Sophomore Alexandra Garritano) sells her long hair to Madame Sofronie (Senior Kathleen Hyzy) to pay for Jim's gold watch chain. What Della didn't know was that Jim had sold his watch to purchase her Christmas gift.

'THE COP AND THE ANTHEM'

To get himself arrested, Lemuel (Senior Michael Mable, Jr.), tries to "pick-up" a woman he sees on the street. Florabelle (Senior Diana Hughes) was looking for that as well; however, she was looking for money in exchange.



DRAMATIC SOCIETY



First Row: Jonathan Warus, Courtney Albright, Jaime Ortiz, Caleb Bateman, Jon Wargo, Kathleen Hyzy, Jennifer Mustafa, Jenni Festa. Second Row: Joi-Lyn Eller, Michael Mable Jr., Aimee Street, Damara Hamlin, Diana Hughes, Sarah Kennedy, Emily Mandich, Melissa Duttweiler, Kathleen Wilson. Third Row: Maegin Farmer, Amber Jimenez, Jessica Argue, Kymalee Gresh, Mark Huber, Krystle McMullan, Angela Merritt, Sabrina Hennessy, Sponsor Beverly Seaver. Fourth Row: Alec Reeder, Alexandra Garritano, Khalisa Williams, Nicole Olivares, Emily Graun, Megan Lee, Cliff Golon, Samantha Sullivan, Biljana Mizimakoski, Andrea Rainaldi. Fifth Row: Nolan Buck, Amanda Degard, Ashley McNeil, Lauren Strom, Jesse Koon, Laura Sopko, Niki Kraska, Michael Finchum, Jeremy Roark.

While still plotting to get himself arrested so he will have a warm place to sleep for the winter, Lemuel (Senior Michael Mable, Jr.) is accosted by an Old Lady (Senior Kathleen Hyzy) who tries to push her trinkets on him. He eventually buys a four-leaf clover, but she warns him to be careful what he wishes for. In the end, he finally decides to turn himself into an honest man and make a living for himself. However, the Old Lady's words come back to haunt him, because at that moment, a cop comes by and arrests him for vagrancy.

SYMPHONIC BAND



Director: Mr. Scott Maack

First row: Rachael Thomas, Dana Bolden, Sara Lopez, Elizabeth Hall, Stephanie Waldron, Breon Harris, Rebecca Lee, Second row: Jacqueline Kish, Matthew Paul, Snea Nacoski, Brittney Stoica, Lagina Williams, Marvin Torrence. Third row: Christina Peschke, Heather Cooper, Jovonté Ford, Kenyetta West, Stephanie Neville, Chris Tokarski. Fourth row: Mr. Maack, Rebecca Stephen, Matthew Wieneke, Aaron Marcus, Darren Anderson, Gregory Nitsch.

CONCERT BAND



Director: Mr. Robert Myers

First row: Michael Bakos, Austin Burke, Carlton Hoyles, Drake Branda, Donald Whittemore, Samuel Yacko, Brandon Jordon, Second row: Joshua Puzey, LaTavia Comer, Sarah Wolf, Melody Gomez, Riffany Kedziora, Allana Fleck, Christine Stephens, Dale VanVleet, Shannon Frey, Third row: Daniel Holley, Manuel Riveron, LaDarr Selmon, Laura Flynn, Aimee Ortega, Zachary Sperling, Takema Cox, Charles Cole, Adam Farag, Alyssa McInnis. Fourth row: Mary Hawkins, Perry Herzog, Jessica Savin, Paulo Lara, Emmanuel Turner, Devin Miles, Athena Frost, Derek Midkiff, Sean Kavois, Khameice Jones, Jarryn Robinson, Robert Martin, Scott Stephen, Kevin Wilson, Michael Padgett, Daniel Enghofer, José Ponce, David Lopez, Jacob Zerbe.

In the mood for a



THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



Ho, Ho, Ho.
Principal Dr. Mark Sperling donned Santa's red suit for the Christmas Concert. Dr. Sperling had an unexpected wait for his elves to appear on stage during the concert.



Holiday Concert



Snow falls on members of the Wind Ensemble as they play "Sleigh Ride" during the annual Christmas concert. Highlights of this year's performances include "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Christmas Portrait."



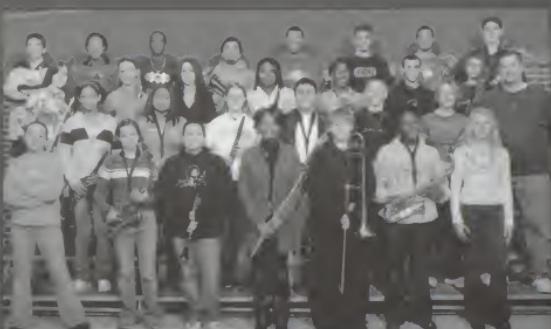
With a Santa hat atop his head, Senior Caleb Bateman narrates "Toy Shop," a clever story that tells how Santa delivers toys to good girls and boys. A four-year drama and band student, Bateman plans to pursue a career in elementary education.

Sophomores Kyle Force and Matthew Wieneke and Juniors Cedric Collins and Raleigh Enslen play their trumpets as the Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band combine for the winter concert.



As a tenor saxophone player, Freshman Christine Stephens provides background, melody or counter-melody for the songs during a band performance. Stevens has played the tenor sax since seventh grade.

SYMPHONIC WINDS



Director: Mr. Scott Maack

First row: Melodie Plummer, Christine Leus, Kimberly Deming, DéAundra Johnson, Christopher Coto, Johnyce Goosby, Biljana Mizimakoski, Sheryl Kwell. Second row: Michelle Luttinen, Shannan Kimbrough, Stacey Veldman, Jonathan Cabral, Dustin Tarr, Elise Szany, Mr. Maack. Third row: Elena Estes, Kathryn Diehl, Megan Lacny, Ashley Jones, Trenika J. Williams, Raleigh Enslen, Andrew Caruana. Fourth row: Matthew Kasperan, Anesia Brown, Ray Vickerstaff, Nicholas Kazonis, Cedric Collins, Neil Osborne, Cedric Collins, Rodney Grove.

WIND ENSEMBLE



Director: Mr. Robert Myers

First row: Adam Lewis, Jon Savin, Lorne Grimmer, Colin Roberts, A.J. Davis, Nathan Street, Kendall Thomas, Earl (McCain) Currin. Second row: Jasmine Dayon, Mallorie Mitchell, Ashley Poling, Sharon Hawkins, Megan Bravo, Kaye Smith, Chris Haro, Jenna Throw, Adam Poling, Rebecca Kohler. Third row: Matthew Colbert, Joia Warner, Nicole Patterson, Katie O'Brien, Kathleen Hyzy, Emily Graun, Dominic Angotti, Zachary O'Keefe, Justin Barron. Fourth row: Mr. Myers, Aubrey Brainard, Abby Hacker, Mavin Torrence, Zachary Sowash, Ryan Allender, Edward Contreras, Taryn Neal, Joshua Gonzales, Michael Ashe. Fifth row: Shaun Crittenden, Ryan Miller, Virtina Savage, Emily Peters, Ashley Jones, Greg Branda, Henry Jackowski, Lee Cotton, Caleb Bateman, Kyle Beshears.

The style is different. The notes are different. The songs are different. Yet, many students only know the band to be what they see and hear on Friday and Saturday nights at Demaree Stadium and Engelhart Gymnasium. However, one of the most unique sections of the band, the jazz band, plays to an entirely distinctive tune. The jazz band performs in separate concerts, as well as performing for many groups that request their talent. As each performance gets better, so does the variety of songs the band can play. The whimsical music of the jazz band can consist of anything from slow classical songs to more upbeat modern music. Featured in some of the performances are theme songs from various movies, as well as a few other recognizable tunes. According to Junior Raleigh Enslen, "I really enjoy being able to play the guitar for the band." Being a separate section from the regular band, the jazz band practices regularly for their performances. Senior Adam Lewis stated, "Joining the jazz band is one of the best things I did in high school." As the band continues to improve, hopefully more students will take the opportunity to watch these stylish performers.

Ryan Zurek



During a concert performance, saxophonist Senior Adam Lewis plays his smooth jazz and talented tunes. Lewis has been spicing up the jazz band ever since his freshman year.

Watching the band, Director Mr. Ron Shalk anxiously awaits for the change in the song so that he can let the band know when to switch the beat.



ALL THAT

Playing their instruments, Junior Rod Grove and Senior Marvin Torrence look at their music to see what to play next. Grove and Torrence entertained guests during the Java and Jazz Concert at Pierce Middle School.



Band Director Mr. Bob Myers loves to play his trumpet with the band during performances.

JAZZ



Waiting for their time to start playing again, Juniors Elise Szany and Ashley Poling hold their drumsticks and prepare for the next beat.



Concentrating on playing the next note, Senior Florian Aeschimann does his best to play the song perfectly. Aeschimann, a native of Switzerland, participated in the Foreign Student Exchange this year.



While playing the song, Freshman Dale VanVleet takes a look at his instrument so he can put his hand where it needs to go for the next note.



Keeping her eyes on her instrument, Sophomore Rebecca Kohler presses the buttons to change the sound that she is playing.

JAZZ BAND



First row: Johnyce Goosby, Joia Warner, Adam Poling, Becky Kohler, Zachary Sperling, Dominic Angotti. Second row: Mary Hawkins, Perry Herzog, Marvin Torrence, Justin Barron, Zachary O'Keefe, Jon Cabral, Matt Kasperan. Third row: Micheal Ashe, Ryan Miller, Emily Peters, David Lopez, Florian Aeschimann, Colin Roberts. Fourth row: Neil Osborne, Adam Lewis, Rod Grove, Ray Vickerstaff.

Performing for the audience during the spring play

"My most memorable moments were working so closely to Diana (Hughes) to get the fight scene down pat. We had to create a whole new chemistry." Senior Kathleen Hyzy



"The unity that the entire cast and crew had by the end of the shows was the most memorable part of the play. It was great." Junior Jon Wargo



"My most memorable moment was when Kathleen (Hyzy) almost broke a pitcher of water, but I still love her." Senior Diana Hughes



What was the most memorable part of "The Miracle Worker?"

Final words

Acting away

Using her hands, Helen Keller (Senior Diana Hughes) investigates her surroundings. Helen relied on her sense of touch since she could not hear or see.



Annie Sullivan (Senior Kathleen Hyzy) says good-bye to the blind children at the Perkins Institute for the Blind before leaving to go to Alabama to help Helen Keller. Hyzy commented, "'The Miracle Worker' was the hardest play I participated in."

Trying to discipline Helen (Senior Diana Hughes) for her immature behavior, Annie Sullivan (Senior Kathleen Hyzy) struggles with a disobedient Helen. One of Sullivan's biggest accomplishments was teaching Helen how to use utensils to eat.



'THE MIRACLE WORKER' MAKES MAGIC

Having a conflict over Helen's behavior, Aunt Eva (Junior Jennifer Mustafa) tries convincing Captain Keller (Junior Jon Wargo) that he should seek help from a specialist for Helen.



Captain Keller (Junior Jon Wargo) confronts his son, James Keller (Sophomore Nolan Buck) during an intense moment of the play. Tension between the father and son began after James' mother died and Captain Keller remarried.



Annie Sullivan (Senior Kathleen Hyzy) makes her last attempt to teach Helen (Senior Diana Hughes) before she returns home to her friends and family at the Perkins Institute for the Blind.



Waiting to depart from the train station, Annie Sullivan (Senior Kathleen Hyzy) and Mr. Anagnos (Senior Michael Mable) say farewell. Mr. Anagnos taught Annie for several years, which makes this scene so emotional.



This year's spring play was like no other. Director Mrs. Beverly Seaver surpassed many obstacles while producing the play. As students showed off their talents, audience members watched four weekend performances, in addition to a daytime performance for students. Seniors Michael Mable, Diana Hughes and Kathleen Hyzy portrayed their roles in a captivating way.

Senior Micheal Mable, who played the role of Mr. Anagnos, stated, "I totally enjoyed this play. We worked really hard to present a great performance. To me, we accomplished our goal."

Senior Kathleen Hyzy, who played the role of Annie Sullivan, hardly left the stage, as she was involved in almost

every scene. Accompanying her on stage for most of the play was also Senior Diana Hughes playing the role of Helen Keller. Joining them were Junior Courtney Albright who played the role of Mrs. Keller and Junior Jon Wargo who played the role of Captain Keller.

As this year's senior actors and actresses began to wrap up high school dramatics, students and parents reflected their hard work and talent at a Dramatic Society banquet. Mrs. Seaver stated, "We had a lot of talented seniors to work on this play, and they will truly be missed from the MHS Dramatic Society."

Nikisha Jefferson

SPRING PLAY 127

Brainstorm



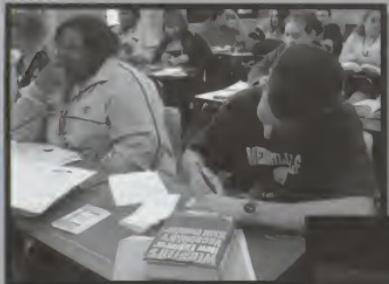
Freshmen Austin Parker
and Laura Hyatt



Senior Michaela Martin



Sophomores Kevin Madsen, Andrew Prifti and
Senior Derek Reibert



Freshmen Paula Lee
and James McLaughlin Jr.



Seniors Michael
Atfield and Jennifer
Reid



Making wedding books, inventing works of art, creating musical masterpieces with voices or instruments, learning history, doing math problems until seeing double, swimming with tropical fish, tuning up engines, speaking new languages, studying sciences that affect our lives, working up a sweat in gym class, writing essays in English classes, doing the dreaded term paper, cooking up a storm, understanding the human body, exploring new computer technology, building houses, brainstorming in academic competitions, expressing creativity in metals classes, acting on stage, learning proper speech techniques — all preparations for the wave of the future.



Members of Mr. Rugg's Fling 3 and House Cleanliness Crew

Sophomore Andrew Cesana
and Dalind Kinsella

Brain power

Competition propels brilliant minds



Concentration

To prepare for competition, Senior Danny Lopez reviews his notes on Gothic art, architecture and history. A Super Bowl member must have knowledge of several different subject matters.



Motivation

Waiting for the question, Quiz Bowl members Sophomore Joe Sobek and Junior Randy Johnson clutch their buzzers during practice. Members spend many hours practicing in preparation for Quiz Bowl competitions. This year the team finished second in the DAC with an 8-1 record.

Preparation

Super Bowl coach Mrs. Evelyn Steiner and Senior Sharon Hawkins review key facets of Gothic architecture to prepare for competition. In the DAC, the Super Bowl team placed first in the English division.



Anticipation

Quiz Bowl sponsor Mr. Scott Staley guides Sophomore Joseph Sobek in working out a problem during practice after school. Coach Staley also accompanies the team to competitions. This season marked the first time the Quiz Bowl team competed at the state level.



Focus, focus, focus

With competition nearing, Super Bowl members Senior Renee Neanover, Juniors Allison Czubik and Ryan Miller complete a practice test. Besides placing first in the DAC in English, science and fine arts, the team also finished respectfully in fine arts and math among the area's teams.

Why did you decide to join Academic Decathlon?

"My sister did Academic Decathlon. My dad expected me to join as well. Plus, the information was helpful in physics class. I really enjoyed it. We all worked hard for our fifth place finish at state."

Senior Renee Neanover

Academic Decathlon

1st Row: Lindsey Harrell, Allison Czubik, Renee Neanover, Jamie Kistinger; 2nd Row: Randy Johnson, Joe Sobek; 3rd Row: Kyle Vafiadis, Mr. John Lambersie, Ryan Miller, Ayriole Frost



Quiz Bowl

1st Row: Renee Neanover; 2nd Row: Joe Sobek, Adam Lewis; 3rd Row: Sohail Azeem, Randy Johnson, Ryan Miller



Super Bowl

1st Row: Allison Czubik, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner, Johnyce Goosby; 2nd Row: Mr. Craig Stafford, Jasmine Dayon, Joia Warner, Greg Ross



C creative Writing

1st Row: Jacqueline Lipski, Parker Johnson, Naomi Magallan, Athena Frost; 2nd Row: Jeff Zweig, Katherine Quick, Ayrrole Frost; 3rd Row: Danny Lopez, Mr. John Lambersie, Patrick Petrovich



Q uill & Scroll

1st Row: Damara Hamlin, Casady Pruitt, Kate Santeramo, Sarah Cardwell; 2nd Row: Monique Navarro, Jacqueline Barsich, Jenny Heidler; 3rd Row: Timothy Balko, Marissa Walls, Dyann Segovich, Kimberly Shapley



S pell Bowl

1st Row: Jenny Heidler, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner



Academics

Leadership

Leading the current members and new inductees in the Quill and Scroll pledge, Senior Kimberly Shapley, the club president, recites the values that Quill and Scroll members strive to uphold in their daily lives.

Reading over some submitted short stories and poems for the literary magazine, Freshman Athena Frost and her older sister, Junior Ayrrole Frost, discuss some of the strong points of each piece. The Creative Writing Club produces a literary magazine of creative writings by students.

Innovation



What is your most memorable Spell Bowl moment?

"My favorite Spell Bowl moment would be watching Mrs. Steiner get mad whenever Ryan Miller and I broke out the chessboard in the middle of practice."

Senior Adam Lewis

Having a way with words

Masters of the English language



Imagination and originality

Eager to give advice, Creative Writing Club Sponsor Mr. John Lammersie responds to Senior Parker Johnson's question about a poem. Mr. Lammersie has been the sponsor for five years. "Back in the days, I taught Creative Writing, so when the spot was open, I was asked to fill it. From then on, I've been the sponsor for reasons I don't even understand," Lammersie added.



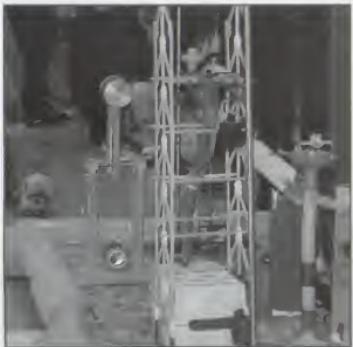
Lighting the future

Lighting the candle of friendship, Senior Lindsay Warus participates in the Quill and Scroll Induction Ceremony. As current members, Seniors Jennifer Heidler and Cole Perkins, look on, 12 members were inducted into Quill and Scroll this year. Eight candles were lit, symbolizing the journalistic values of truth, learning, leadership, loyalty, initiative, integrity, judgment and friendship.

Expressing themselves

To prepare for the next meeting, Seniors Jacqueline Lipski and Naomi Magallan discuss their agenda. Lipski and Magallan were president and vice president of the Creative Writing Club respectively. "The Creative Writing Club is a place where I can share my emotions and expressions with other people through my poetry and short stories," commented Magallan.





Primed and ready to go, the Science Club's final project is ready to crush some cans. After a series of 26 steps, this machine was built to do some damage, but help the environment. After dropping a ball down a funnel, having a car crash trigger a new step and using the domino effect to keep the momentum going, the hammer finally slams down and smashes the can to be easily recycled. The club also participated in a JETS competition consisting of a two part test with rigorous engineering problems at Valparaiso University. Although last year the Varsity team received third place and the Junior Varsity placed second, the Varsity team did not place this year and the Junior Varsity placed second. However, the competition was not pointless. Senior Peter Brasovan said, "I think JETS is a competition that prepares you for college because the tests are very difficult and very in depth. It also expands our knowledge when it comes to the uses of science in our lives."

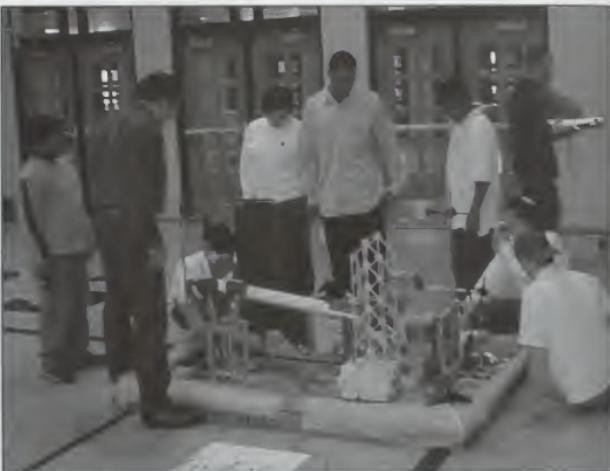
Ingenuity

Science Olympiad

This year, the school asked Mr. Adam Conard to be the sponsor of Science Olympiad. Although it is his first year as a teacher here at MHS and he only teaches physics, he said that he has interests in other branches of science. Therefore, he decided to head up the club. The only requirement needed to participate in Science Olympiad is to be motivated with an interest in science. Mr. Conard said, "Our meetings are rare and consist mostly of organizational activities. Most of the time that goes into the club involves practice time in the lab."

Students in the club participate in competitions where activities may include model airplanes, chemistry experiments, physics labs, identification activities in biology and even some computer related events. The regional competition this year took place in February, so the club prepared for it from November until January.

The variety of sciences involved in such competitions require extensive preparations and an intense desire to study science.



Creativity

Making their finishing touches, the Junior Engineering Technological Society, also called JETS or Science Club, prepares to have their project come into action at the The Rube Goldberg Competition. This year's objective at the competition was to create a project using only natural forces to crush a can and place it in a recycling bin. The competition required the team to invent a contraption that uses at least 20 steps or motions in order to achieve the goal. In the Rube Goldberg competition, a machine must be built in order to perform a simple task. Every year, the task changes in the competition.

Kate Santeramo

Future Einsteins

Scientific minds brainstorm

With a sense of joy and accomplishment, team members show off their useful, complicated creation. The team, guided by Mr. Miles Dunscombe, slaved on the project since before Christmas and finally perfected it for the competition in March. Mr. Dunscombe took over the JETS/Science Club this year after the retirement of former sponsor Mr. Jim Vermillion. Members are the top junior and senior science students chosen by teachers. Senior Joshua Diehl said, "Overall, the club allows students to see some simple engineering situations as well as gaining experience, better thought processes and work as a team."

Resourcefulness



W

hat are the benefits you got from being in JETS or Science Olympiad?

"I get to hang out with my best friend [Senior] Josh Diehl, and had a great time doing it."

Senior Christopher Barbauld

"I think science is fun. Especially when you don't have to get a grade for it. It also looks really good on the college application."

Senior Waricha Watthanapha

JETS

1st Row: Damara Hamlin, Kristina Ojleska, Waricha Watthanapha; 2nd Row: Lucas Phillips, Christopher Barbauld, Joshua Diehl; 3rd Row: Mr. Miles Dunscombe, Joi-Lyn Eller



Science Olympiad

1st Row: Greg Ross, Jasmine Dayon, Mr. Adam Conard



National Honor Society

Sponsor: Mrs. Margaret Stallings

1st Row: Casady Pruitt, Jenna Throw, Kate Santeramo, Melissa Duttweiler, Sara Valdez, Sarah Kennedy, Kristina Ojleska, Waricha Watthanapha, Damara Hamlin; 2nd Row: Paulo Laorden, Kimberly Kish, Megan Hulburt, Guille Dabu, Cole Perkins, Nicole Sparger, Brandon Waldrop, Monique Navarro, Dyann Segvich; 3rd Row: Samantha Sullivan, Rebecca Stephen, Brian Ashford, Kimberly Shapley, Laura Sopko, Jessica Zimmerman, Claudia Nava-McCain, Jamie Sweeney; 4th Row: Adam Lewis, David Rooda, Peter Brasovan, Joseph Frasca, Jared Byczko, Caleb Bateman, Christopher Barbauld, Joshua Diehl



Leadership

Current NHS members, Seniors Joseph Frasca, David Rooda, Monique Navarro and Damara Hamlin wait on stage to speak to the audience. Fifty students were given the honor of joining the MHS chapter.



Character

Shaking hands, Principal Dr. Mark Sperling congratulates Junior Jamie Kistinger on being inducted. Dr. Sperling also addressed the old and new members, along with their families, at the induction ceremony.

National Honor Society President Senior Kimberly Kish presents Junior Katie Wilson with a certificate of membership. The induction was followed by refreshments provided by the current members of the society.

Service





A speaker at the induction ceremony, Senior Damara Hamlin lights one of the candles representing the characteristics of National Honor Society members. The different candles represent leadership, scholarship, service and character.

Scholarship

Leading the way

NHS students guide the school with leadership, character, scholarship and service

Scholarship, leadership, character, and service- these are the principles that the National Honor Society (NHS) represents and that its members strive to uphold in their everyday lives, both in and out of school.

"My favorite part about being in NHS is being able to make a positive difference in the community," commented Senior Kimberly Kish, President of NHS. "I try to uphold the principles of NHS by being a good role model daily."

The NHS participated in many activities throughout the year. Fundraisers included selling Entertainment Books, Pizzas, and the ever-popular Data Match. The main service projects for the NHS members were the induction of the new members and the Roots and Wings Dinner, which honors the top ten students in the graduating class along with their parents and favorite teachers.

"I really enjoyed the induction because last year I was in the same position as the new inductees were in," Senior Guille Dabu remarked. "Our fundraisers were very successful too, especially the Data Match. It was the most popular one."

Mrs. Maggie Stallings is the current NHS sponsor and has been for the past three years. She enjoyed working with this year's bunch and is looking forward to all the possibilities for NHS in the future.

"These students are so busy that working around their schedules is the most difficult part of the job; however, the students are so self-motivated and focused that they are a joy to lead," Stallings said.

There were 54 graduating senior members of NHS, so the 50 juniors will have to take the reigns for next year. The departing seniors had plenty of advice for the rising seniors.

"Stay organized and be sure to voice opinions and share ideas," Kish stated.

Dabu added, "Plan ahead and try to do as much as can possibly be done."

Damara Hamlin

Freshman Academy

New program helps improve ISTEP scores

The ISTEP is a test all Indiana sophomores must take and pass before graduating. Getting enough students to pass the ISTEP often presents a problem for high schools across the state, and MHS is no different. However, this year, MHS had a plan: The Freshman Academy.

"We reviewed all incoming freshmen, and by looking at their math, science and English grades, pre- and post-NWEA scores and ISTEP scores, we decided who would benefit most from programs that dealt with time differently than the traditional schedule," said Principal Dr. Mark Sperling.

The Freshman Academy runs on a block schedule, which gives the students more practice time with ISTEP skills. "We have more time to work with the students, and they get more time to practice and improve their skills before the ISTEP test," stated Mrs. Elizabeth Kenyon, one of the Freshman Academy science teachers.

All of the activities performed in the classes are based on ISTEP standards. Mrs. Lorri Covaci, an English teacher in the Freshman Academy, commented, "The English course is set up so that we can touch on all ISTEP skills, but we also cover skills learned by other freshmen in their regular English courses."

"I am really pleased with the progress made so far by the students. There's been significant improvement made in the two NWEA tests they've taken so far this year. We have youngsters now passing classes that never did so before," Sperling stated.

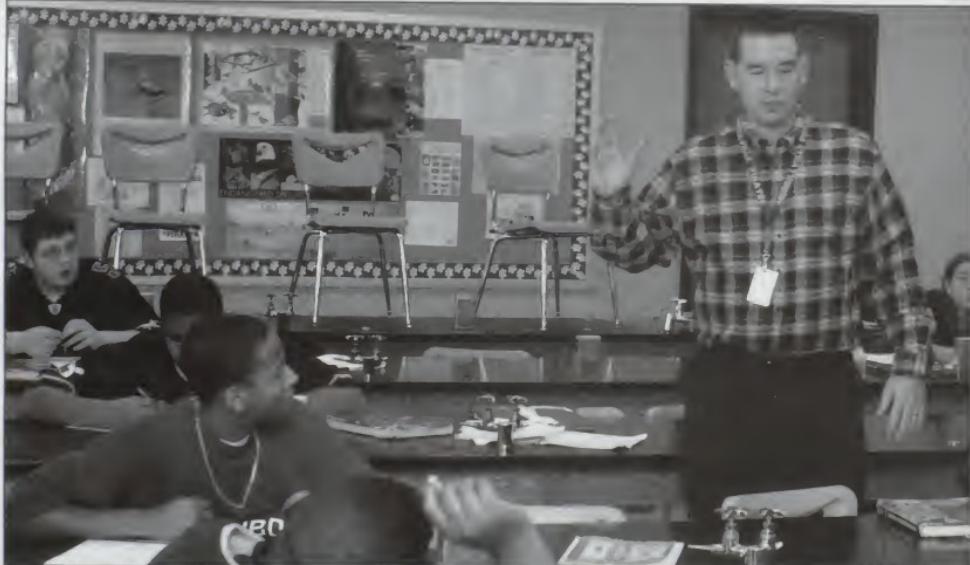
"The students that work hard and try to succeed are the ones that seem to be improving on their skills. They get out what they put in," Mr. Wade Boise, a math teacher in the Freshman Academy, added.

As far as next year goes, the Freshman Academy seems to be something that will be at MHS for a while. When it comes to improvements needed, all of the teachers agree that parental involvement is a big issue and hope that it improves as time progresses. "Good education is an ongoing process," Sperling stated, "and we'll continue to consider what will best meet the needs of the students and the community."

Damara Hamlin

Paying attention pays off

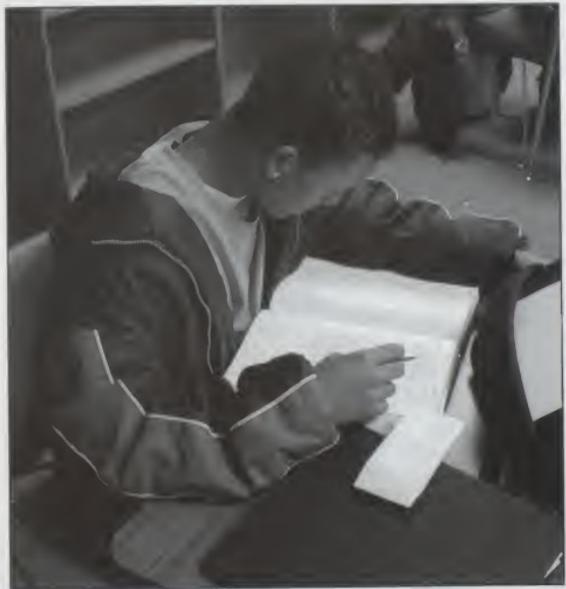
Using body language and all, Mr. Jeff Clinkenbeard elaborates on the concepts of science in his Freshman Academy class. Students may retain more information when listening attentively to an interesting lecture.





"Attention!"

Looking like an expert, Freshman Keith Dean presents his speech on the new student IDs. Proper English skills, practiced in speech, are focused on in the Freshman Academy courses to improve English ISTEP scores.



Focus, focus, focus

With scrap paper and all, Freshman Jericho Marrero prepares to attack some math problems. The Freshman Academy focuses on teaching students ISTEP level mathematics throughout the year.

H ow can I help?

As questions are encouraged, Freshman Cheryl Munchenburg inquires some information from Freshman Academy Assistant Nick Brasovan in Mrs. Lorri Covaci's English class. Asking questions on work can be an effective tool for students to learn.



W orking together

Happy to help, Freshman Academy English teacher Mrs. Lorri Covaci points out an important detail to help Freshman Jermaine Jones. Student-teacher interaction is highly promoted in the newest classes.



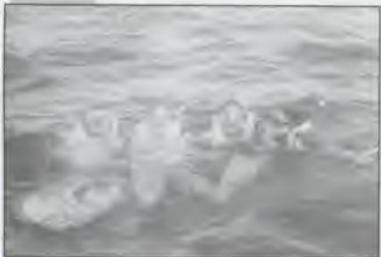
S tory time

Who says students are the only ones who have homework? As English teacher Mr. Tony Klimczak proves, teachers have to be familiar with their students' material as well.



F loatin' around

Discussing the mysteries of the sea, Junior Melissa Velazco, Seniors Erin Holland and Jamie Sweeney and Sophomore Kendall Maddox tread water during a snorkeling mission.



L ittle mermaid

Searching for underwater creatures, Senior Erin Holland hopes to snap a picture of an exotic fish.



S norkelled

All suited up and ready to dive, Sophomore Kendall, Maddox, Seniors Tim Balko and Jamie Sweeney, Junior Melissa Velazco and Senior Erin Holland anticipate exploring the wonders of the water.

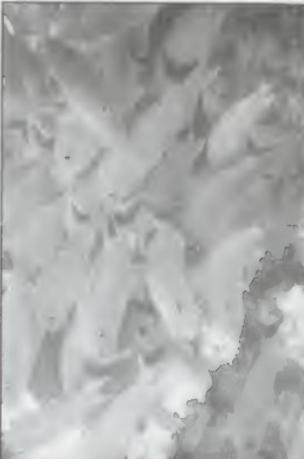


One fish, two fish

Startled by the unexpected divers, a school of French Grunts glide through the crystalline water. This species represents just one of the thousands of creatures whose home is beneath the waves.

In the middle of a hectic week, Junior Melissa Velazco, Seniors Erin Holland, Jamie Sweeney, Josh Diaz, Junior Scott Shellhart, Sophomore Kendall Maddox, Senior Tim Balko and 2002 graduate Joe Jurisa discovered more than a variety of sea animals, they also discovered a group of friends.

School of friends



W hat valuable experiences came from this trip?

"The most valuable experience I gained was seeing marine life up close and understanding how the ecosystem works."

Junior Melissa Velazco

Down in the Keys

where the fish swim and the fun begins



The electric eel

Showing the trip is not all work, Balko and Chaperone Mrs. Marietta Petris boogie to the beat of Shakira. Finding ways to entertain themselves in between classes and dives is no problem for the unique wave of students.

As MHS students began their countdown to the end of summer, the Environmental/Marine Biology Club began their preparation for the annual trip to the Florida Keys.

The week-long trip, made in July, is offered to any interested high school student. Months of preparation take place to assemble this trip.

Students pay their own way, so they organize fundraisers to help defer some costs of the trip.

In order to attend this once in a lifetime opportunity, participants must earn credit in Biology I and receive proper certification. Senior Josh Diaz elaborated, "You really have to like marine life as well as be willing to put in many hours of hard work to raise the money. It's an expensive trip."

Before departing for Florida, participants must attend classes both in the water and in the classroom with program director, Mr. Jeff Yelton. Yelton explained about the trip, "Much of our work is done in the field and in an environment totally foreign to the student. What we talk about in a classroom setting is immediately reinforced by a field trip or lab activity conducted in the natural environment."

Dyann Segvich and Kate Santeramo

Buried treasures

A starfish is commonly discovered on the sandy ocean floor. Here an instructor holds a starfish while lecturing on the starfish's ability to regenerate a lost limb.





Changing oil, checking brake pads and detailing cars all might sound like jobs of professionals, but MHS students partake in similar tasks. As a part of the vast curriculum offered to Merrillville students, Autoshop is offered for two hours a day.

Senior Christopher Adams said, "I joined Autoshop to have an opportunity to work on my car and to gain additional knowledge about automobiles."

In order for this class to be a success, the students must have good knowledge of what they are dealing with. The teacher, Mr. Jim Johnston, is trained in all areas of industrial technology. "This area has been a hobby of mine, so it's a dream come true to teach this class," said Johnston.

He feels that the students have many things to learn. Johnston stated, "For some kids, it can be a career. For some, it can be a way to gain knowledge of a car. And for others, it can become a hobby."

The students in this class feel that they learn valuable life information, and they have a good time doing it.

"The class is fun, and you don't have to sit in a chair all hour. Instead, you are constantly moving and performing hands on activities in the lab. Plus, Coach J is hilarious and a good teacher," stated Senior Jared Byczko.

Mary Kate Lucas

Performing a routine task, Seniors Martin Cole and Peter Brasovan complete an oil change. Oil changes are a beginning project for the students in Autoshop.

Shifting into gear



Why did you decide to take Autoshop?

"I like cars. They fascinate me with their speed and looks. I enjoy working on them, too, and am considering going to school to become a mechanic."

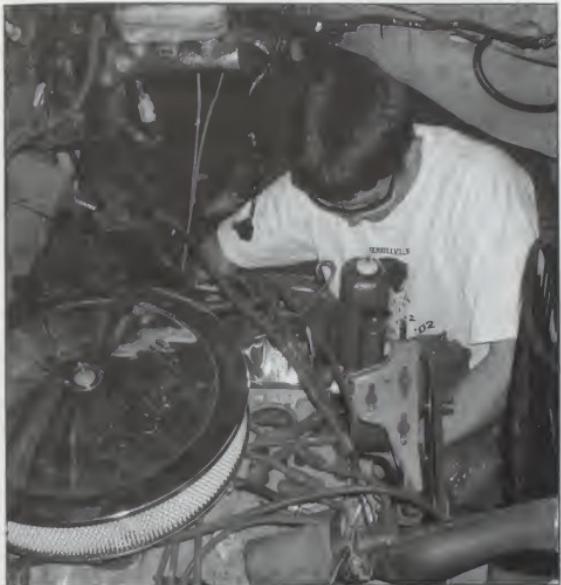
Senior Brian Nienhaus

Revving their engines

Autoshop: from oil changes to engine swaps, they do it all

With total concentration, Senior Brian Nienhaus and Junior Daniel Lee replace the brakes of a fellow student's car. Students took advantage of the free labor when experiencing minor car problems.

Put the pedal to the metal



Engine removal

Trying to remove the motor, Seniors Jared Byczko and Michael Frost take out the master cylinder. In order to remove an engine, the master cylinder is often first removed for more room.



Brake check

Removing the brake pad, Senior Kyle Jackson changes a fellow student's drum brakes. Of the two different types of brakes, disc and drum, drum brakes are more tedious to check and change.



More power

Rebuilding his truck, Senior Aaron Powell works on his engine to gain more horsepower. Students in this class had the opportunity to work on their cars whenever possible.



Oil change

Performing a routine task, Senior Clint Wimmer and Junior Robert Wahlman check the oil dipstick. Having a sufficient amount of oil is crucial for proper engine function.

Rust be gone



Determined to finish her sculpture of the character Ducky from "The Land Before Time," Senior Tiffany Smith uses her fingers to smooth out imperfections on the top of his head. Concentrating on the details helps students improve their grade.

A touch of magic

stroke of art

Working on the face of his drawing, Freshman Edward Barcenas uses careful strokes as he shades in the skin. Proper brush technique is one skill that students improved on in art class.



ay it all out

Examining a layout of a miniature golf building, Senior Joshua Diehl points to a specific section of his design.



pin doctor

Smoothing out his vase, Sophomore Matthew Bigelow uses the flat end of a knife to create texture on his ceramics project. The pottery wheel is one privilege students begin to use in Ceramics II.

144 Academics



Technology

Starting a new project, Senior Clint Wimmer searches for the icon to create a new line. Wimmer is working on one of many new computers the CAD class received this year.

Putting the finishing touches on her portrait, Junior Carol Newell perfects the lips of her masterpiece. Newell enjoys painting pictures in her free time.

Picture perfect





"It taught me patience and gave me a new outlet for self-expression."
Senior Tiffany Smith

What have you learned from art class?

Working with computers is never an easy task. Students who are involved in the CAD labs enjoy using the advanced technology in order to design and animate different pictures and sketches. The CAD lab has just received a brand new set of computers to be used for the labs. The new computers have helped the students get a better understanding of designing and how animation is made and used. "The students are now able to take advantage of the capabilities that the new computers have," explained CAD lab instructor, Mr. Steven Prather. The students are advanced and know how to master the computers here at MHS. "I enjoy using the new computers and the new programs in the CAD lab. I have learned a lot more," said Senior Clint Wimmer.

Along with the CAD labs, various art classes allow MHS students to express their creative ability. Classes such as painting, photography and ceramics are some of the art classes offered at MHS. Ceramics is a popular class among students at MHS. "I love being able to create new objects during my ceramics class," said Junior Diana Prentoski.

Another popular art class is photography. Students nowadays love to take pictures of friends, family, school life and almost anything possible. Although equipment must be provided by the student, photography proves to be a worthwhile class to take. Many of the students want to learn more about this new hobby, so they take the class in order to learn more about photography. No matter what class you take here at MHS, there is always a good chance you learn something new and interesting.

Lauren Strom

Creativity Counts

A splash of artistic ability shines down on MHS

Special Times for Special People



Taking a breather

Breaking from all of the excitement, Daniel Avery and Christine Garza talk to Mr. Mike Sellers about the fun events taking place at the dance. Many of the students enjoyed quality time with their fellow classmates at the Valentine's Dance.



Preparing

In anticipation of the dance, Ksenija Djukic waits patiently for her nails to dry. Many of the girls who attended the dance had their hair and nails professionally done for this special event.

Primping

Preparing for an exciting and fun-filled night, Shawna Brown gets her hair done by Holly Novacich. Novacich is from David James Salon, located in Munster.



Disco dancing

Having tons of fun on the dance floor, Aeriel Smith and Brandon Harty prove to be enjoying the night. The students wore themselves out from all of the dancing by the time the dance was over.



Dancing divas

Showing off their dancing skills, Amanda Joselyn, Joy Varela and Amanda Riesywiz jam to the music. The students enjoyed the dance, which in the end, turned out to be a major success.

Dance, dance, dance

Enjoying the sounds of the band, Latrice Brooks, Tenita Jamison and Sarah Turner dance to "Thanks To Nothing," a band composed of Merrillville High School students. Dancing and having a blast with friends were key parts to the Valentine's Dance.



Special Olympics Volleyball Team

Row 1: Jessie Neal, Becca Robinson, John Naglowski, Daniel Avery. Row 2: Coach Melissa Szczera, Meghan Westphal, Dave Breen, Erin Coughlin, Ksenija Djukic.



Boogying to the beat

As they prepare to dance the night away, Edward Collon Jr. and Erin Coughlin head on out to the dance floor to have some fun.





Mr. Adam Conard

Hometown - Crown Point, IN
College - Purdue University
Favorite food - pizza
On the weekend - he travels
Favorite TV show - "Simpsons"
Pet peeve - swearing in halls
Favorite class in school - math and history
Admires - his dad
FYI - he is the sponsor for Science Olympiad



Mrs. Lorri Covaciu

Hometown - Flint, MI
College - Northern Illinois
Favorite food - Italian
On the weekend - time with family
Favorite TV show - "West Wing"
Pet peeve - not doing what you say
Favorite class in school - English
Admires - parents because they treated all three girls equally
FYI - After her wedding, her sister married her brother-in-law.

Hometown - Chesterton, IN
College - IUN
Favorite food - Italian
On the weekend - rests and hangs out with her friends
Favorite TV show - "That 70's Show"
Pet peeve - messy people
Favorite class in school - science
High School job - manager at Burger King

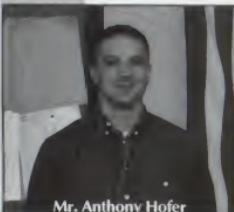


Mrs. Stephanie Dore

Hometown - Rossville, IN
College - Purdue University
Favorite food - anything edible
On the weekend - spends time with husband
Favorite TV show - "Bachelor"
Pet peeve - PDA
Favorite class in school - government and economics
Admires - Grandma
FYI - had her first baby at the end of 2003 summer



Mrs. Leanna Griffith - Goldsmith



Mr. Anthony Hofer

Hometown - Griffith, IN
College - St. Francis
Favorite food - Mexican
On the weekend - gives private hitting lessons (helps MI-Is also)
Favorite TV show - "Simpsons"
Pet peeve - irresponsible people
Favorite class in school - history
Admires - his college advisor
High School job - Pizza Hut delivery boy



Mrs. Leslie Joseph

Hometown - Eugene, OR and Marion, VA
College - Radford University, VA
Favorite food - beef stroganoff
On the weekend - Watch NBA, go to Chicago, be with husband
Favorite TV show - "City Confidential"
Favorite class in school - history
Admires - David Robinson since he does a lot for the community

Hometown - LaPorte, IN
College - Manchester
Favorite food - Steak
On the weekend - hangs out with his wife
Favorite TV show - "WWE Raw"
Pet peeve - bad drivers
Favorite class in school - gym
Admires - Mr. Wells
High School job - worked on a Christmas tree farm
FYI - He has a tattoo of a cross on his back.



Mr. Anthony Klimaszak

Hometown - Hudsonville, MI
College - Grace College
Favorite food - Italian
On the weekend - golf, softball, raquetball, watching Nascar
Favorite TV show - "West Wing"
Pet peeve - people who are late
Favorite class in school - band
Admires - father
Nickname - SAM (initials)
FYI - his scavenger hunt marriage proposal won itself a place in a book of proposals



Mr. Scott Maack



Mr. Bob Maicher

Hometown - Whiting, IN
College - Purdue University
Favorite food - pizza
On the weekend - plays golf
Favorite TV show - "CSI"
Favorite class in school - math
Admires - older brother & dad
Embarrassing moment - fell out of the stands at a basketball game with a broken leg
Why MHS - he wanted to coach basketball and liked the unique curriculum
FYI - he is surprisingly quiet

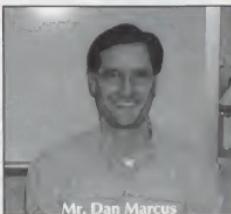
Fresh Faces

New faculty adds flare to the classrooms of MHS



Mr. Daniel Maldonado

Hometown - East Chicago, IN
College - Iowa State
On the weekend - time with son
Favorite food - Subway
Favorite TV show - "ER"
Pet peeve - immaturity
Favorite class in school - drafting
Admires - his father
High school job - at the steel mill
Why MHS - good opportunities
FYI - he drives a PT Cruiser



Mr. Dan Marcus

Hometown - New Haven, CT
College - Butler (for teaching)
On the weekend - spends time with family
Favorite food - ice cream
Favorite tv show - "Ed"
Pet peeve - people who are late
Favorite class in school - history
Admires - Ghandi because of his kind nature
FYI - writes songs and also plays the guitar



Hometown - Merrillville, IN
Favorite food - pizza
On the weekend - she spends quality time with her kids
Favorite TV show - "Seinfeld"
Favorite class in school - math
Embarrassing moment - she walked into a glass door
Admires - her sister
FYI - she is easy to talk to and gets along with everyone



Mr. Mike Sellers

Hometown - Hobart, IN
College - Purdue Cal
Favorite food - Italian
Favorite TV show - "Simpsons"
Pet peeve - immaturity
Favorite class in school - math
On the weekend - friends
Admires - his parents
High school job - driving range
Why MHS - there was an open position



Mr. James Simon

Hometown - Hammond, IN
College - Valparaiso University
Favorite food - Buca di Beppos
Favorite TV show - "C-Span" and "Will & Grace"
Favorite class in school - photography and government
Admires - his father and James Madison for his political ambition
On the weekend - fly fishing
FYI - he is a proud new uncle



Mr. Mike Ashton

Hometown - Lowell, IN
College - Indiana State
Favorite food - anything healthy
Pet peeve - when people chew loudly while he's concentrating
Favorite class in school - history
Admires - people who know what they're doing or help people
Embarrassing moment - leaving school, he walked into a flagpole
FYI - been an editor of a Christian publication for 10 years



Mr. Mike Ashton

Of those who responded,
 68% are married
 42% have children
 62% were raised in Indiana
 30% live in Merrillville
 43% are a coach/sponsor
 57% were an athlete
 29% always wanted to teach

50% have broken a bone
 57% have "T-P'd" someone
 29% were class clowns
 52% eat cafeteria food
 57% prefer Coke over Pepsi
 36% dye their hair
 36% have a tattoo
 79% said the chicken came first

Did you know...

New Faculty

149

Making a Splash



Seniors Jared Dawson
and Jarrell Hamilton



Junior Zachary Johnson



Senior Anthony
Kippel

Senior Derek
Sullivan, Captain
Sarah Kozak and
Pride Basketball
Team



Seniors Leah Vauden and Wendy Lynn
Wallsompson



Friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, best friends, acquaintances, husbands, wives, siblings, teachers, authority figures, cliques, teammates, lab partners, ensembles, classmates, coaches, guidance counselors, lunch ladies, aides, secretaries, student teachers, managers, pin pals, fans, clubs, trainers, directors, sponsors, advisers, athletes, artists, musicians, brainiacs, dancers, actors, performers — a tsunami of people pour into MHS.



Tre Johnson Loma
Jennifer Hernandez



Freshmen Vytas Rousis, Emily Lashab, Kristen Renn, and Melinda Ryvola

Junior Dan Soren

Administration



Mark B. Sperling, Ed.D.

Most of you have been involved in a substantial number of activities, in and outside of the classroom. These activities have allowed you the opportunity to be better rounded as students and young adults.



David DeMuth



Michael Krutz

I am very proud of the efforts of the graduating Class of 2003. All of the years of education culminate in this final year of high school. Most of you have been involved in a substantial number of activities, in and outside of the classroom. These activities have allowed you the opportunity to be better rounded as students and young adults. It's difficult, sometimes sitting in my choir, to understand all of the stresses students deal with today. Our society has continued to evolve; it is different than in years past. The crashing of the twin towers, the threat of war, the issues that are highlighted daily in the press all have caused students to have different feelings about our society.

To have eight valedictorians and one salutatorian is remarkable. This class also boasts a National Merit Finalist, Jenna Throw, and a National Achievement Scholar, Demora Homlin. We have many more academic and athletic award winners in this class. More importantly, the students of the Class of 2003 have risen above the rest to be one of the finest groups of young people in Northwest Indiana.

I salute you and the efforts you have made during your four years here. I hope that all of you will find the success that the fine foundation this high school has provided as you enter the next stage in your lives.

Mark B. Sperling, Ed.D.
Principal

There is an overflow of students who visit my office. They all receive an 'overflow' of love before I execute.

Mr. Jennings

Because of their education, today's graduates have an abundance of career opportunities.

Mr. DeMuth



John Jennings

There's never a dull moment here at MHS.

Mrs. Murray-Minor

Ya, where's your ID!

Mr. Krutz



Janice Murray-Minor



Thomas G. Bairbridge



Mark S. Lucas



Ronald J. Mayersky



Scott Rosenbalm

SCHOOL BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Donna Stath



Michael J. Berta, Jr.



Gale Guyer



Ronald L. Price



Dr. Anthony Lux

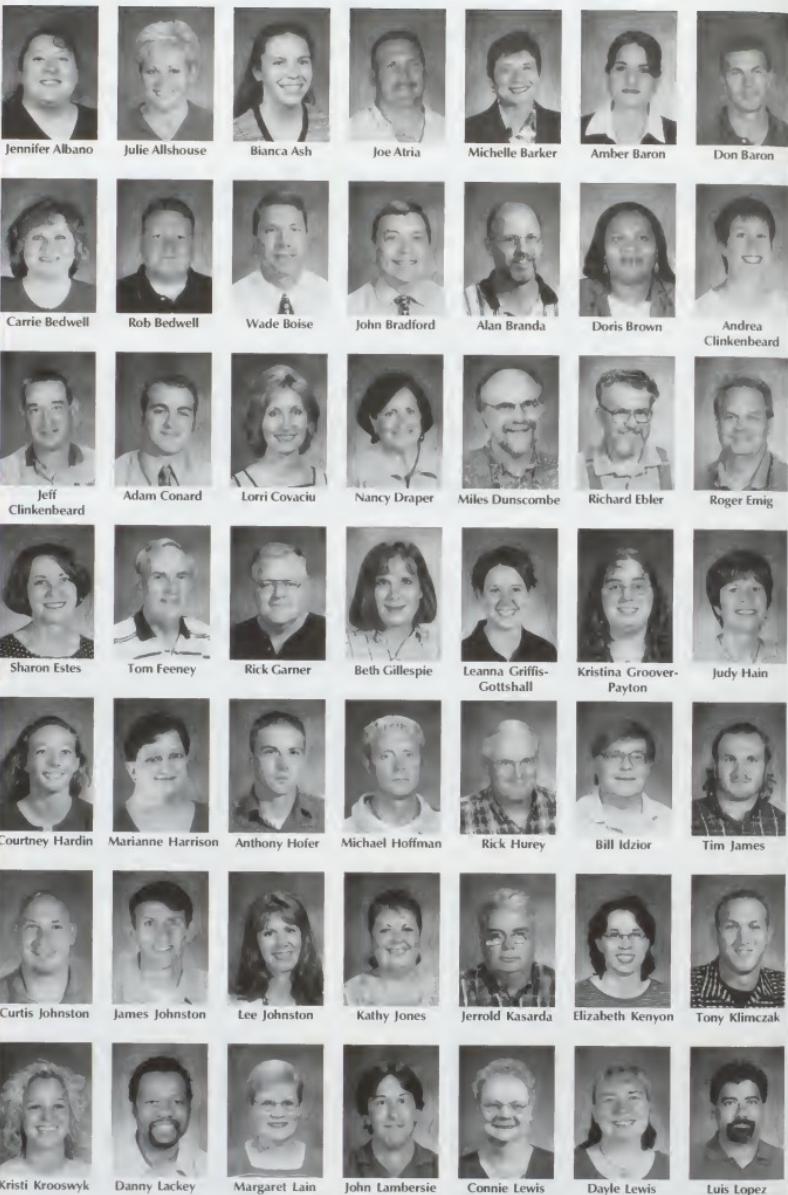
*Sometimes
the days go by
so fast that
what seemed
like a never-
ending four
years was
completed
faster than one
could imagine.*

Like standing in the pounding surf of the ocean, high school requirements, demands and opportunities are unrelenting and physically exhausting. Like a river overflowing its banks, the surge of daily activities moves students through their high school years in a rapidly flowing current. Sometimes the days go by so fast that what seemed like a never-ending four years was completed faster than one could imagine.

The great thing about Merrillville High School is that there are so many opportunities for students. These opportunities provide students with the dilemmas and headaches during their high school years of having to choose from among all the options. With graduation seniors are able to look back and realize that somehow, somehow they were able to navigate the overflowing rapids of daily school activities. They are also able to look ahead with confidence because they have shown they can successfully navigate through so many options, decisions and choices that they will be successful wherever the future takes them. For this we are grateful and proud.

Dr. Tony Lux
Superintendent, Merrillville Schools

Faculty & Staff



Jennifer Albano

Julie Allhouse

Bianca Ash

Joe Atria

Michelle Barker

Amber Baron

Don Baron

Carrie Bedwell

Rob Bedwell

Wade Boise

John Bradford

Alan Branda

Doris Brown

Andrea Clinkenbeard

Jeff Clinkenbeard

Adam Conard

Lorri Covaci

Nancy Draper

Miles Dunscombe

Richard Ebler

Roger Ernig

Sharon Estes

Tom Feeney

Rick Garner

Beth Gillespie

Leanna Griffis-Gottshall

Kristina Groover-Payton

Judy Hain

Courtney Hardin

Marianne Harrison

Anthony Hofer

Michael Hoffman

Ricky Hurey

Bill Idzior

Tim James

Curtis Johnston

James Johnston

Lee Johnston

Kathy Jones

Jerrold Kasarda

Elizabeth Kenyon

Tony Klimczak

Kristi Krooswyk

Danny Lackey

Margaret Lain

John Lambersie

Connie Lewis

Dayle Lewis

Luis Lopez



Maria Lopez



Scott Maack



Robert Maicher



Dan Marcus



Debbie Monix



Sally Morgan



Erin Mulloy



Patrick Mulloy



Gail Nicolini



Jennifer Niksch



Deborah
Onika-Brazys



Brian Past



Irene Pena



Maryetta Petras



Donna Phelps



Kay Pikus



Josefina Poropat



Tania Price



Teresa Procter



Randy Qualizza



Janis Qualizza



Melinda
Reinhart



Bonnie Sanders



Violet Schmuck



Elissa Schubert



Beverley Seaver



Mike Sellers



Rosa Smith



Irene Spiro



Debra Staffeld



Scott Staley



Margaret Stallings



Jean Stanford



Evelyn Steiner



Michelle Sulich



Melissa Szczerba



Dave Teeter



Carol Von Behren



Sue Whitlock



Sally Williamson



Madeline Wilson



Michelle Wilson



Dave Zimmerman

Media Center

1st Row: Donna Phelps, Joe Poteet.
2nd Row: Mary Scheffer, Therese Dyer.



Guidance Department

Cheryl Albers, Vicki Paulnitz, Sharon Jones,
Judy Vassallo.



Day Maintenance

1st Row: Joy Varela, Angie Knezevic.
2nd Row: Joe Jurisa, Don Hickman, Tom
Scolaro.



Evening Maintenance

1st Row: Robert Fernando, Dragica
Kovacevic, Milica Sormaz, Nisa
Milosavljevich, Helen Moravskij, Mark
Robinson.
2nd Row: Zoran Stefanovic, Paul Moravskij,
Tim Cooper, Andy Fleming, Roy Traylor,
Charlie Stanford.





Main Office

Carol Hogan, Debbie KlippeL,
Lynn Herrera, Sandra Scholtens.



Athletic Office

Nicki Jusko and Debbie Willison.



Student Services

Linda Hall, Cheryl Ursery, Marilyn Thien.

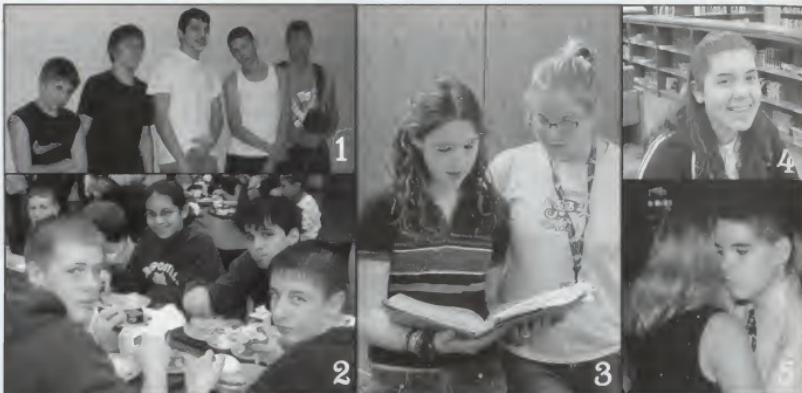


Security

1st Row: Ron Thomas, Rose Pulliam, Larry Juzwicki.
2nd Row: Daryl D. Bowie Sr., Patrick L. Clark.

Freshmen

Class of '06



Big changes await freshmen in high school

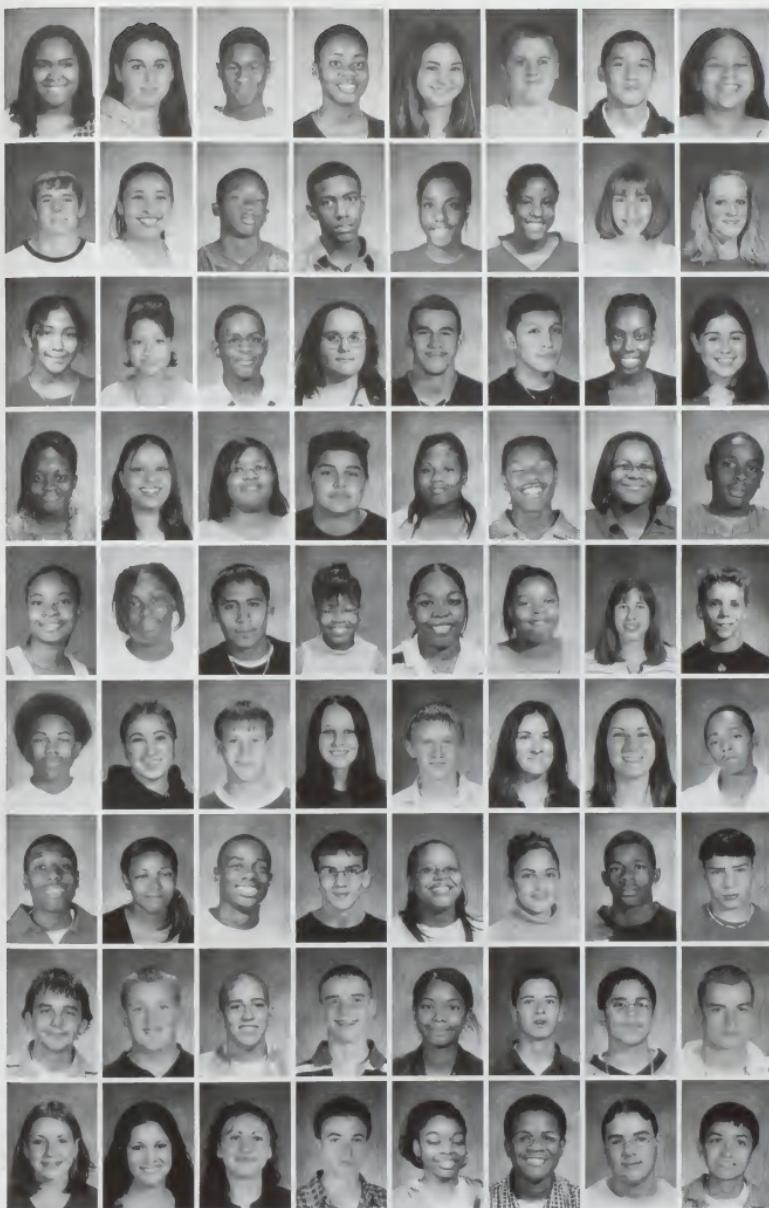
Making the change from middle school to high school is one of the hardest transitions for students to make. It is difficult to go from the top in eighth grade back to the bottom as a freshman. The stories have been told, and all the rumors have been heard. The first day of school arrives, and a new class begins the journey through freshman year.

From the time the bell rings on the first day of school, instead of worrying about classes, freshmen are worried about being noticed. Many questions begin to fill their heads. Will my friends be in my classes? What are my teachers like? Who will I eat lunch with? Where is my locker? Will the hallways always be this crowded?

What lies ahead for many freshmen is a year full of new experiences. Older boys, older girls, formal dances, sporting events and high school parties are only a few of the things that freshmen will be introduced to. Students either love high school or hate it, but one thing is certain. Each student will keep memories from this year that will last a lifetime.

Brittany Williams

1 Raymond Duttweiler, Justin Belko, Phillip Keene, Adam Farag, Timothy Sovich. 2 Kyle Wengel, Raquel Guerrero, Michael Bork, Scott Schafer. 3 Lauren Rees, Vicki Rousis, Niki Kraska. 5 Rachel Hayes, Andrew James. 6 Sarah Rivera, Kelsey Gibson, Brianna Yarnell. 7 Blake Sohacki. 8 Ashley Washburn.



Brittany Abrám
Stacy Adams
James Addison
Jennifer Adler
James Aeschliman
Robert Aguirre
Yvette Alba

Brian Albee
Celeste Alcantar
Robert Aldrich
Taariq Ali
Raquel Allen
Robin Allen
Erica Aloia
Lindsey Alvarez

Gloria Alvelo
Valerie Alvelo
Darron Anderson
Brittney Andrade
Aaron Arce
Alfredo Arredondo
Saprina Ashburn
Diane Ashford

Rosina Assilvey-Mensah
Rosalinda Ayala
Taleisha Badgett
Joshua Baig
Jasmine Bailey
Jeremy Bailey
Leslie Bailey
Daniel Baker

Lynette Bankhead
Lakeisha Barbee
Edward Barcenas
Kelly Barefield
Cassidy Barber
Kimberly Barnes
Janet Barsich
Matthew Basile

Dorell Bass
Gabrielle Bass
Kyle Bateman
Angela Baumann
Justin Belko
Alayna Bella
Jacqueline Bella
Marcus Berry

Jeffrey Bess
Shakira Best
Jeremy Billingsley
Roy Bishop
Mary Blair
Lorna Blondet
Jesse Blue
William Borgia

Michael Bork
Harry Boskamp III
Dustin Boyd
Matthew Braatz
Porsché Bradley
Drake Branda
Amanda Bravo
Richard Breitenecker

Kristin Brindley
Amanda Broentjes
Emily Brooks
William Brosch
Alexandria Brown
Dwayne Brown
Gregory Brown
Samuel Brown

Q & A

What was your biggest fear coming into high school?

"All the homework."
Jonathan Scott



"Not knowing where anything is, getting lost and having no one in my lunch."
Kyle Wengel



"I'd get lost since the school is so big."
Nicole Silbersdorf

"Getting to know people."
Demetrius Noble



"I would be overwhelmed, fail all my classes, and become nothing."
Melissa Thurson



Tricia Brown
Derrick Bryant
Nicholas Budz
Janessa Buhsse
Jena Bult
Ricky Burge
Austin Burke
Denise Burney



Chasity Burns
Bobby Burton
Ryan Cameron
Edna Carbajal
Braylin Carpenter
Analy Carrera
Asia Carter
Derek Carter



Andre Cash
Nathan Chandler
Cheng-Wei Chiang
Andrea Clanton
Dominique Clark
Charles Cole
Dejeron Coleman
Denise Coleman



Jamal Coleman
Christi Condos
Alison Conquest
Colt Contreras
Chad Cooper
William Coria, Jr.
Francisco Cortez
Takema Cox



James Crawley
William Crosby
Melissa Crossley
Jennifer Cruz
Dominique Cudjoe
Mallory Cuevas
Isaac Culver
Anthony Curry



Michelle Cutrel
Emily Czekala
Kayla Daily
Chad Dawson
Keith Dean, Jr.
Tierney Dearon
Lindsey Degard
Brendan Delaney



Alysia DeLeon
Jeffrey Delya
Kimberly Denny
Erica Denson
Gregory Denvit
Lee Dixon III
Terrell Doaks
Noelle Dolton

Joseph Duggins
Delisa Dumas
Marissa Duncan
Raymond Duttweiler
Angela East
Ambria Easterling
April Echols
Martell Edwards

Kevin Eisler
Erica Elmore
Daniel Enghofer
Rachel Escobedo
Darryl Evans, Jr.
Ashley Evenson
Adam Farag
Magen Fasoth

Cara Fejes
Laroi Ferrell
Tina Fitzpatrick
Allana Fleck
Travonda Fleming
Edward Flores
Holly Floyd
Justin Floyd

Laura Flynn
Jessica Francis
Eric Freeman
Shannon Frey
Athena Frost
Gilberto Fuentes
Allyse Fultz
Tammy Gaboyan

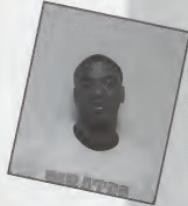
Tamara Gaddy
Jessica Gallinatti
Armando Garza
Tiffany Garza
Ann Gault
Rebecca Gay
Rafael Gerodimos
Timothy Ghoston

1 Megan Lee, Nicole Vowell, Callie Lucas, Niki Kraska,
Melody Gomez, Emily Rodriguez, Lisa Lumbarkoski,
Jessica Francis. 2 Cassidy Barner, Courtney McLeod,
Tyona Marshall.

1

2

Freshmen say . . .



I get a ride to school, but he is always punkin' me in front of everybody.
Ayodeji Macarthy



She helped me find my classes and made sure I didn't get lost, and I don't have to take the bus.
Emily Rodriguez



We've gotten closer and she helped me around, but I have to see her all day.
Jessica Gallimatti



He gets to drive me here and everybody says, 'Aren't you Sean's brother?'
Blake Schacki



She helps me find my way around and gives me background information on teachers.
Erica Aloia

Adoniss Gibson
Geraldine Gibson
Kelsey Gibson
William Gidley
Romaize Gilbert



Antwone Gildon
Krystle Gill
Morgan Gill
Christopher Ginter
Kierra Givens



Carly Golwitzer
Melody Gomez
Robert Gomez
Jacklyn Goralczyk
Angelique Gruchmal



Raquel Guerrero
Justin Gust
Juan Gutierrez
Kiera Hagan
Ashley Hahney



Elaine Hall
Brittney Hampton
Nicole Hansbury
Dwight Harding
Kasie Harris



Cheryl Harrison
Richard Hartline
Brandon Hartly
Richard Hauber
Mary Hawkins



Rachel Hayes
Sheldon Hayes
Devin Helsing
Stacy Henderson
Breana Hendrix



Sonya Henry
Benjamin Hernandez
Gregory Heron
Perry Herzog
Jeremy Higgins



Kristina Highland
Brittney Hill
Gregory Hill
Aaron Hindson
Nicholas Hirjak





Daniel Holley
Cambria Hollingsworth
Ebony Holly
Gina Howard
Carlton Hoyles

Melissa Hubbell
Melvin Hudson
Lauren Huijst
Emiley Hunt
Ty Andrea Hunter

Andrew James
Desmond James
Thomas John
Elliott Johnson
Brittany Jones

Candace Jones
Edward Jones
Jermaine Jones
Jessica Jones
Khameice Jones

La Reshea Jones
Brandon Jordan
Andrew Kaiser
Samanitha Kaiser
Zachery Kamradt

Rania Kaoukis
Katherine Kaplan
Irene Karagiannis
Sean Kavos
Tiffany Kedziora

Phillip Keene
Lola Kegley
Ryan Kemp
Courtney King
Ashley Kistinger

Dejan Kitevski
Brandy Klein
Marie Koselke
Niki Kraska
Christina Kratinenos

Jonathan Kucik
Brittney La Broi
Armando Lagunas
Evelyn Lape
Paulo Lara

Seniors respond



I get to pick on him because he's an underclassman, but I know he's safe cause I'll be here for him.
Temidayo Macarthy



She's close to me, so now I can keep a closer eye on her.
Vanessa Rodriguez



We're around each other too much and argue sometimes, but I get to watch out for her and make sure she doesn't date ugly guys.
Liz Gallinatti



He's kind of a weirdo, and he does weird stuff with his friends. Weird freshmen always come up to me and say, 'Aren't you Blake's brother?' Sean Sohacki



You get to know the younger people, but I had to take responsibility when school started to show her around.
Christine Aloia

Q & A

"My grandma, because she's a strong person."
Sharlette King



"My brother, Joshua, because I can always depend on him when I need him."

Darron Anderson

"Richie Hauber, because I can talk to him about anything."
Scott Stephen



"My friends, because they are always there for me, and I can count on them for anything."
Alysse Fultz

"My soccer teammate, Ashley, because she is a great person and everything I would want to be in a player."
Alison Conquest



Dexter Larimore
Elizabeth Lashenik
Randall Lester
Amr Latif
Brittany Lee
Enzor Lee
Megan Lee
Tamika Lee



Justin Lewis
Courtney Liddell
Jonathan Little
Joseph Lobodinski
Cornell Lockett
David Lopez
Krystle Louis
Samatha Lowe



Cvetka Lozeski
Callie Lucas
Anthony Lucente
Robert Lucente
Lisa Lombarski
Todd Lunsford
Andre Mabon
Giancarlo Macapagal



Ayodeji Macarthy
Christopher Madison
Natalie Madrid
Rebecca Magana
Erica MaGee
Jasmine Magee
Kyran Magee
Melanie Mangrum

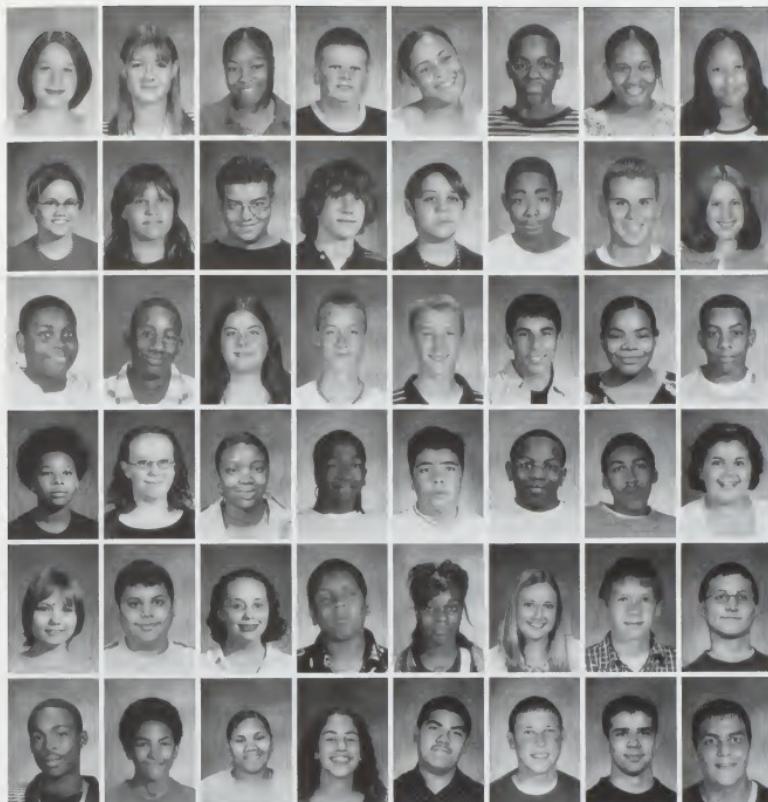


Natasha Manzella
Jennifer Marquis
Jericho Marrero
Krystal Marshall
Tyona Marshall
Robert Martin
Mykal Martinez
Timothy Matson



Nichole Mauk
Emerson May II
Vernanda Mayewethers
Jade McCaslin
Beaudilio McClendon
Colin McDonald
Victoria McGee
Kelly McGhee





Lindsey McRoy
Alyssa McMinnis
Simone McKinney
Jacob McKown
Courtney McLeod
Michael McMullan
Krystle McMullan
Sharon Mercado

Brittany Merritt
Samantha Messino
Joshua Metz
Derek Midkiff
Jett Mihal
Devin Miles
Eric Miles
Courtney Miller

Jermel Miller
Sidney Miller
Heather Miller
Daniel Minskey
Samuel Minskey
Joseph Mireles
Sheena Mitchell
Victor Mobley

D'Andre Moody
Alison Moore
Brittney Moore
Robert Moore
Edwin Moreno
Jeremy Morris
Julian Mosley
Beverly Munchenburg

Cheryl Munchenburg
Steven Muveski
Katherine Naglosky
Rio Nance
Tanesha Neal
Leigh Nelson
Daniel Nieman II
Dustin Nikolic

Demetrius Noble
Chad Noss
Angelica Nunn
Aimee Ortega
Gerardo Ortiz, Jr.
Michael Padgett
Jamie Palomo
Estratios Papamihalakis

Q & A

"Omni."
Eric Freeman



"Movies because it's something to do."
Austin Burke



"Basketball games,
because I get to see all
the people from Pierce
and other high school
people I don't get to
see during school."
Danielle Roberts



"My house, because
my house is tight."
Michael Bork



"The mall, because I
like to buy clothes."
Natalie Adler



Dexter Larimore



Freshman year is a hard year for most, but even harder when you're trying to live up to the reputation of an older brother.

Dexter Larimore, however, has made the transition quite well. Dexter proved to be an all-around good student by making A's and B's on his report card, despite the fact that he's always busy with sports. He also proved to be a great athlete by going down to state last year for freestyle wrestling.

Dexter enjoys the high school atmosphere because he gets to be around older people. He also has visions of being the older person and being able to pick on the younger kids.

But what does Dexter like most about MHS?

Dexter really enjoys the athletic programs here. Dexter said, "You got Coach Milhouse, the best lineman coach in the area; then you got Coach Maldonado, one of the best wrestling coaches in Northwest Indiana." He added that the track program here is also good.

Because most of his family is really into sports, he has been motivated for most of his life to be involved in sports. His brother, Riley, Class of 2002 and all-state football player, has been one of his greatest role models. Riley frequently helps out Dexter by giving him advice about football.

Dexter said, "Every time I walk by the Hall of Fame and see Riley's picture, it makes me want to be better."

Monique Navarro

Vincent Pariso
Evan Parker
Jessica Parker
Erin Parks
Tushar Patel



Henry Patterson
Paige Patterson
Tiffany Patterson
Tyreese Patterson
Stephanie Pavlish



Tierra Peacock
Jeremy Pedroza
Richard Pennington
Jared Perkins
Brittany Perry



Karl Person
Robert Petit
Lucas Phillips
Jose Ponce
Fred Pope



Jeremy Powers III
Ryan Pozzezana
Erica Prong
Mario Pruitt
Joshua Puzey



Katherine Quick
Renee Ragon
Cedric Rambert
Daniel Ramirez
Diana Ramirez



Samantha Ratley
Jacquelyn Reed
Lauren Rees
Brian Reese
Erica Richmond

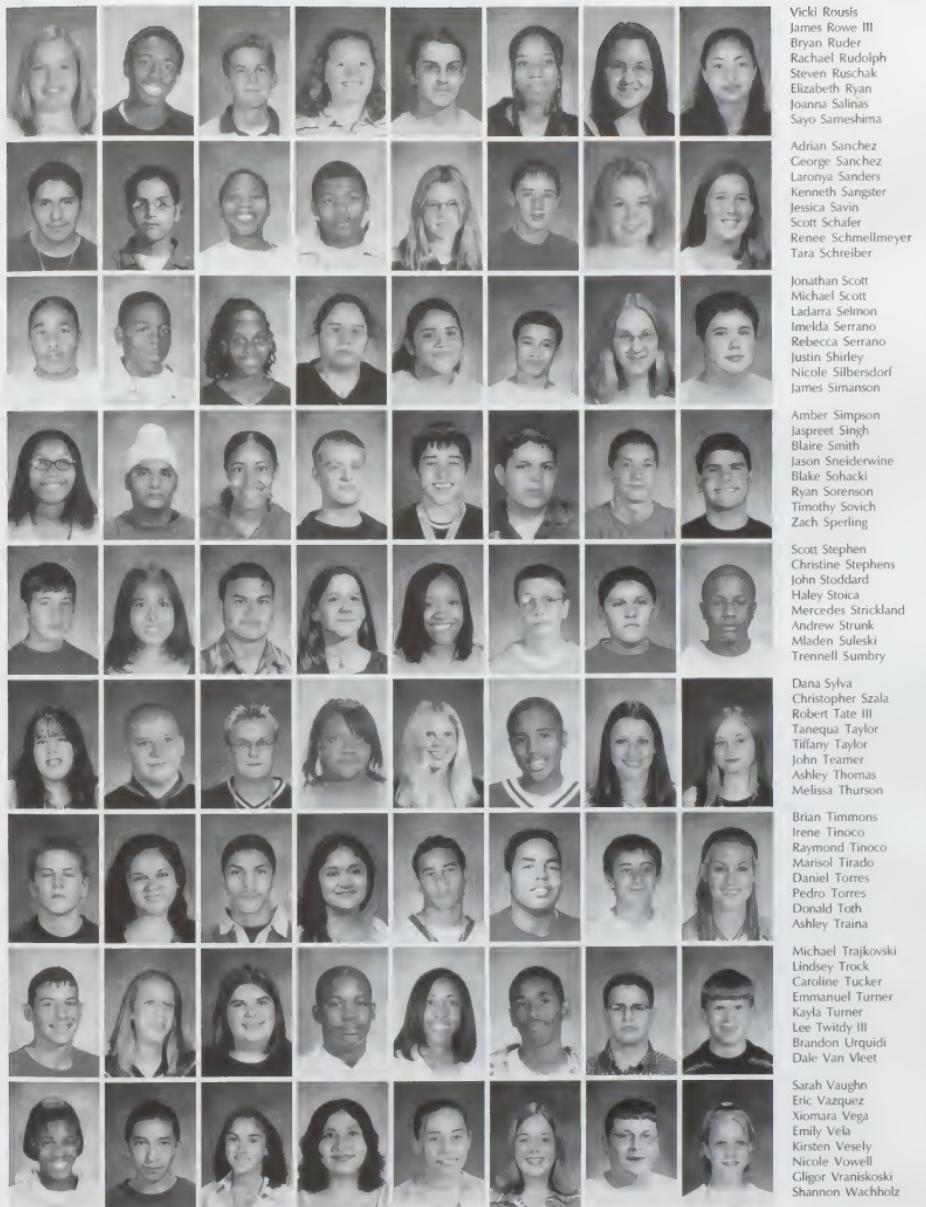


Melissa Rivera
Sarah Rivera
Manuel Riveron, Jr.
Danielle Roberts
Dominique Robinson



Earl Robinson, Jr.
Jarryn Robinson
Jojo Rodgers
Emily Rodriguez
Sean Rose





Vicki Rousis
James Rowe III
Bryan Ruder
Rachael Rudolph
Steven Ruschak
Elizabeth Ryan
Joanna Salinas
Sayo Sameshima

Adrian Sanchez
George Sanchez
Laronya Sanders
Kenneth Sangster
Jessica Savin
Scott Schaefer
Renee Schmellmeyer
Tara Schreiber

Jonathan Scott
Michael Scott
Ladarra Selmon
Imelda Serrano
Rebecca Serrano
Justin Shirley
Nicole Silbersdorf
James Simanson

Amber Simpson
Jaspreet Singh
Blaire Smith
Jason Schneider
Blake Sohocki
Ryan Sorenson
Timothy Sovich
Zach Spelling

Scott Stephen
Christine Stephens
John Stoddard
Haley Stoica
Mercedes Strickland
Andrew Strunk
Mladen Suleski
Trennell Sumbry

Dana Sylvie
Christopher Szala
Robert Tate III
Tanequa Taylor
Tiffany Taylor
John Teamer
Ashley Thomas
Melissa Thurson

Brian Timmons
Irene Tinoco
Raymond Tinoco
Marisol Tirado
Daniel Torres
Pedro Torres
Donald Toth
Ashley Traina

Michael Trajkovski
Lindsey Trock
Caroline Tucker
Emmanuel Turner
Kayla Turner
Lee Twitty III
Brandon Urquidi
Dale Van Vleet

Sarah Vaughn
Eric Vazquez
Xiomara Vega
Emily Vela
Kirsten Vesely
Nicole Vowell
Gligor Vranikoski
Shannon Wachholz

Alyssa Wachter
Lauren Walls
James Walton
Christopher Warrens
Ashley Washburn
Brian Washington
Rochelle Waxton
Alyssa Wesley



Kamai Westbrooks
Crystal White
Donald Whittemore
Rochelle Willard
Albert Williams
Brianna Williams
Joseph Williams
Lashameice Williams



Holly Williamson
Daphne Willis
Suzanne Wills
Kevin Wilson
Stacy Wilson
Leon Winters
Sarah Wolf
Tabitha Wood



Jonathan Woodward
Andrew Wright
Shemeka Wright
Samuel Yacko
Brianna Yarnell
Donald York
Susanne Youngren
Matthew Zdych



Kevin Zelisko
Morgan Zellers
Jacob Zerbe
George Zupanosi
Heather Zurek



Camera Shy Freshmen



1 Vicki Rousis, Katie Kaplar. 2 Angela Baumann, Marissa Duncan. 3. Justin Floyd.

Luke J. Amundsen
James Anderson
Norma Barcenas
Eric Billick
Christeen Bryant
James Caton
Erica DeSoto
Amber Fleming
Tatiana Jones
Heather Kovach
Mario Montemayor II
Terrell Parrish
Michael Renn
Brian Richard
Jacqueline Smith
Felicia Stewart
Samuel Sumrall
Jeffrey Toth
Jessica Turner
Mario Walker
Kyle Wengel
Ashley White
Calvin Williams



1



3



6



7



9

1 Samantha Ratley, Lauren Rees. 2 Angelica Nunn, Ebony Holly. 3 Heather Zurek, Stephanie Pavlish. 4 Gerardo Ortiz, Michael Padgett, Krystal Marshall, Brandy Klein, Melissa Hubbell, Ebony Holly. 5 Jared Perkins. 6 Marie Kosek. 7 Samantha Ratley. 8 Brianna Yarnell, Rachel Escobedo. 9 Anthony Curry, Drake Branda, Brian Albee, Bryan Ruder. 10 Courtney Miller, Morgan Zellers.



8

10

Sophomores

Class of '05



Caught in the middle and hardly seen

To many students, the sophomore class is the one that goes unnoticed. Freshmen are new to the school and seem to be excited by anything. Juniors are now considered upper-classmen and old enough to stay out later and do their own thing. Seniors are the leaders of the school and ready to graduate.

Sometimes the sophomores have a hard time finding their place in the scheme of things.

It's not all bad though. By this time in high school, many students have settled in here. Most know where the classrooms are. Most are familiar with the teachers. Sophomores

have matured since freshman year, and many have chosen the people who will be their friends until graduation and after. Most students have found out what type of people they like and the things that they like to do. Also, this is the year many students turn sweet 16 and gain freedom through a license.

Each year a student spends here will seem to go by faster than the last. Although some of the days seem like they will never come to an end, the year wraps up quickly. Most agree the time put in will be worth it, and sophomores realize their years at MHS are half over.

Brittany Williams



1 Michael Nason and Nathanael Powell. 2 Daniel Burkus. 3 Megan Bravo. 4 Alex Spangler and Megan Stacks. 5 Sarra Kwell. 6 Kristine Warshall and Gina Angotti. 7 Melissa Hajvert. 8 Mark Wieneke.

Q A

Who is your favorite superhero?



"Superman, because he is super."

Melissa Hajvert



"The Green Lantern, because he can do anything."

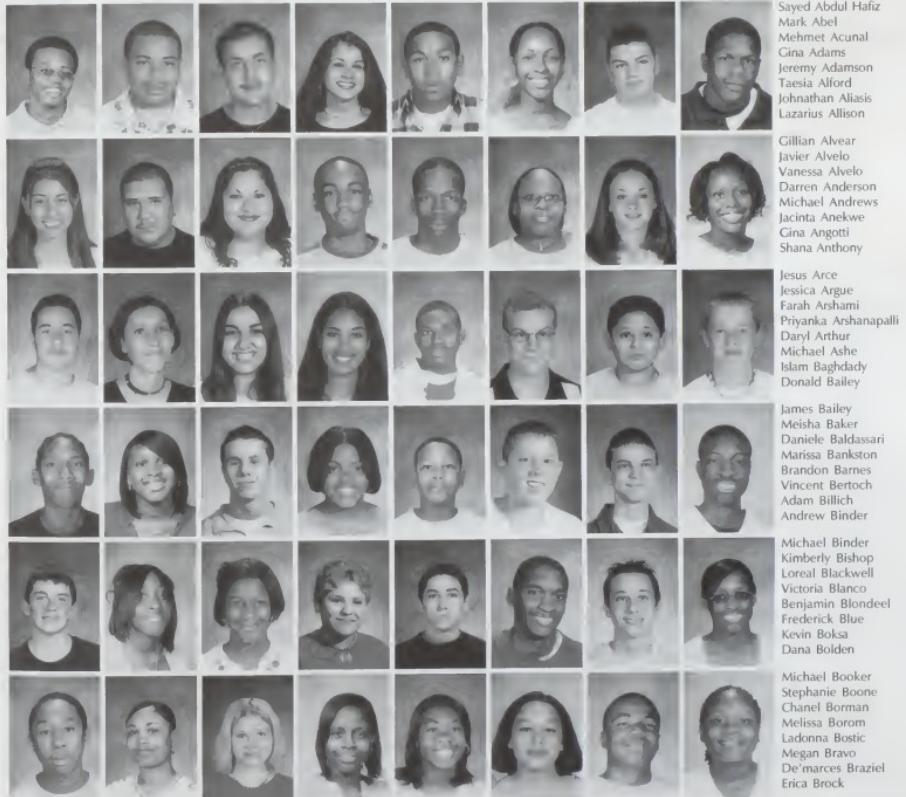
Nathanael Powell

"Captain Underpants. He is my idol."

Kristopher Simonovski

"Spiderman, because he is awesome."

Vincent Bertoch



Alyssia Brown
Anesia Brown
Antoine Brown
Leslie Brown
Amanda Brunn
Den Bryant
Michelle Buckner
Timothy Bugno



Justin Burgess
Daniel Burkus
Charee Burnett
Andrew Burt
Morgan Bynum
Jonathan Cabral
Sherri Cagle
Tiffany Cain



Davin Campbell
Jonte' Campbell
Chris Carter
Andrew Caruana
Amanda Cast
Enrique Cerros
Jovan Champion
William Chandler



Myles Clark
Gary Clenna
Julianne Coates
McKinley Coifield
Tiffannie Colby
Katherine Coleman
Michael Coleman
Adriana Colon



Marissa Comanese
Latavia Comer
Heather Cooper
Melissa Corman
Christopher Coto
Justin Coto
Matthew Crane
Rickie Crawley



Lavonte' Crook
Angela Crosby
David Cuadra
Melissa Dambek
Jessica Daniels
Dyan Darang
Jayminni Dave
Ted Davis



Tristan Dawson
Steven Decker
Amanda Degard
Anthony Dennis
Barbara Denvit
Kathryn Diehl
Tiffany Dobry
Robert Dombrowski



Ryan Donohue
Krista Dora
Krystle Divodelic
Allison Dyer
Chevon Earl
Christian Ellis
Erin Ely
Elena Estes



D'andre Evans
Chad Evenson
Julianne Fabian
Rayshad Faison
Maegin Farmer
Brandon Fazekas
Jenni Festa
Raffael Fester



Q & A

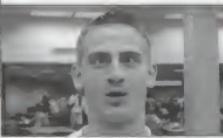
What was your most embarrassing moment?



"Playing on 'The Dating Game' with Monique Navarro."

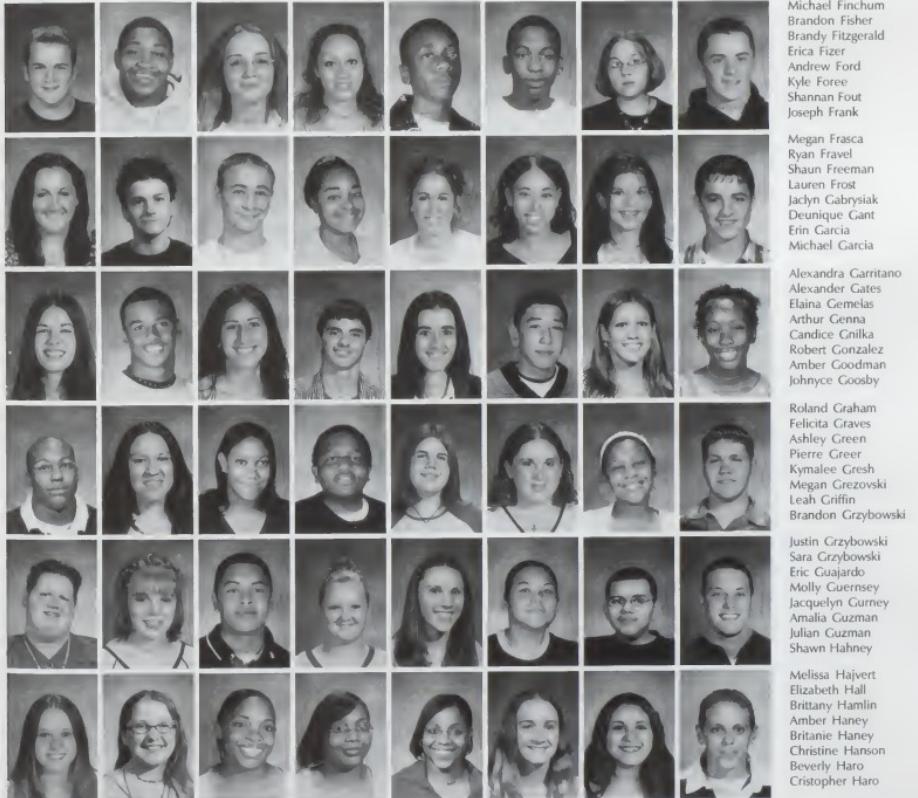
Douglas Kurczynski

"Wearing see through pants with no underwear."
James Reitz



"Tiffany Smith bagged me in front of a group of guys."
McKinley Cofield

"I was talking to a girl and I accidentally farted."
Matthew Paul



Michael Finchum
Brandon Fisher
Brandy Fitzgerald
Erica Fizer
Andrew Ford
Kyle Force
Shanann Fout
Joseph Frank

Megan Frasca
Ryan Fravel
Shaun Freeman
Lauren Frost
Jaclyn Gabrysiak
Deunique Gant
Erin Garcia
Michael Garcia

Alexandra Garrano
Alexander Gates
Elaina Gemelas
Arthur Genna
Candice Gnilika
Robert Gonzalez
Amber Goodman
Johnyce Goosby

Roland Graham
Felicia Graves
Ashley Green
Pierre Greer
Kymalee Gresh
Megan Grzozski
Leah Griffin
Brandon Grzybowski

Justin Grzybowski
Sara Grzybowski
Eric Guajardo
Molly Guernsey
Jacquelyn Gurney
Amalia Guzman
Julian Cuzman
Shawn Hahnhey

Melissa Hajvert
Elizabeth Hall
Brittany Hamlin
Amber Haney
Britanie Haney
Christine Hanson
Beverly Haro
Christopher Haro

Fabian Haro
Tekoa Harris
Jacqueline Hartford
Shenell Haynes
Matthew Hays
Kimberly Heath
Laura Heidler
Joajuania Hemphill



Steven Hemphill
Jason Henderson
Clayton Henry
John Hicks
Justin Higgins
Jennifer Highsmith
Ashley Hinchen
Gregory Hite



Jonathan Hmurovich
Franketta Hogan
Brian Hoover
Jasmine Hopkins
Steven Hord
Kisha Horton
Larry Howard
Phyllis Howard



Dennis Howell
Asia Howerton
Brittany Huish
Jeremy Hunter
Alexander James
Ashly Janovick
Kimberly Jansen
Timothy Jelinek



Amber Jimenez
Mylah Johnson
Adrian Jones
Ashley Jones
Tiffany Jones
Kevin Jordan
Michelle Jordan
David Jutkus



Michael Kanouse
Sahson Karimi
John Kasper
Matthew Kasperan
Emmanuel Kazonis
John Kedziora
Christopher Kelly
Marsheena Kendrick



Teneka Kindred
Natalie King
Sean Kinsey
Taneisha Kirk
Brian Kisska
Kassandra Kluga
Eric Knight
Daron Knox



Adam Koartge
Rebecca Kohler
Katie Komisarick
Douglas Kurczynski
Amy Kuzminski
Sarra Kwell
Laine La Pinta
Andres Lagunas



Tricia Lakatos
Garrett Langham
Steven Lares
Dale Lee
Jeremy Lee
Thomas Leicht
Vincent Ligon
Justin Little



What is your favorite lunch this year?

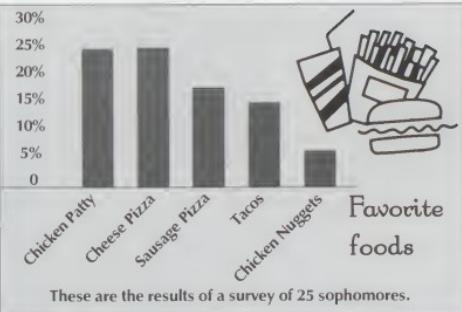
"Taco Day, because tacos are my favorite food."

"Chicken Patty, chicken is great."

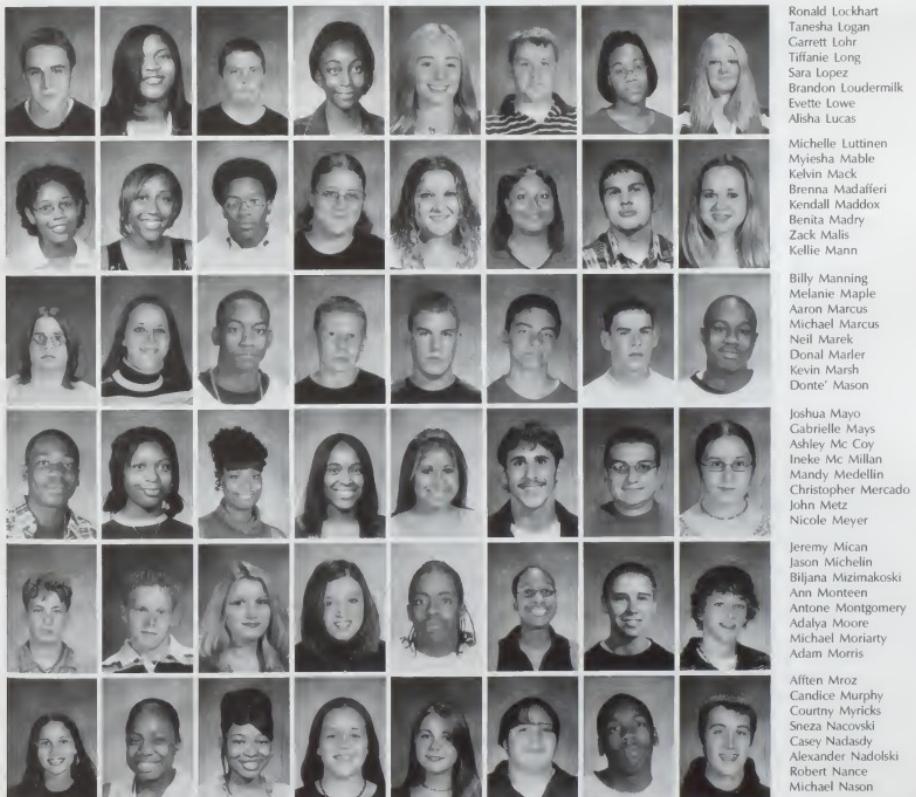
Franketta Hogan



Cory Wagner



These are the results of a survey of 25 sophomores.



Ronald Lockhart
Tanesha Logan
Garrett Lohr
Tiffanie Long
Sara Lopez
Brandon Loudermilk
Etvette Lowe
Alisha Lucas

Michelle Luttimen
Myiesha Mable
Kelvin Mack
Brenna Madafieri
Kendall Maddox
Bentia Madry
Zack Malis
Kellie Mann

Billy Manning
Melanie Maple
Aaron Marcus
Michael Marcus
Neil Marek
Donal Marler
Kevin Marsh
Donte' Mason

Joshua Mayo
Gabrielle Mays
Ashley Mc Coy
Ineke Mc Millan
Mandy Medellin
Christopher Mercado
John Metz
Nicole Meyer

Jeremy Mican
Jason Michelin
Biljana Mizimakoski
Ann Monteen
Antone Montgomery
Adalya Moore
Michael Morris
Adam Morris

Afitten Mroz
Candice Murphy
Courtney Myricks
Sneja Nacovski
Casey Nadasy
Alexander Nudolski
Robert Nance
Michael Nason

Megan Stacks



For Sophomore Megan Stacks, life revolves around softball. In the spring she plays for the MHS girls' Softball Team. During the summer, she and her family are active in the town's girls' softball league and boys' baseball league. "She has the potential to be an impact player this year," according to Coach Bob Bergeson. "Last year she learned a lot and did a great job for the Pirates."



Michael Neal
Kristen Neese
Gary Nelson
Stephanie Neville
James Nicola
Danielle Nikrin
Gregory Niksch
Elizabeth Nomanson



Lindsey Nosich
James O'reilly
Aron Okichich
Nicole Olivares
Kevin Olson
Obinna Onyeaka
Jeffrey Ortiz
Ana Otano



Veronica Page
Ronald Parish
Jamie Parker
Michelle Paskash
Lyndenna Patton
Matthew Paul
Kristi Pawlowski
Bonnie Payo



Ronald Pedroza
Anita Pejoski
Bryant Person
Cheekiera Pfeifer
Alexander Phy
Jacqueline Piccolin
Jade Pickett
Kristina Pimentel



Carisse Pinon
David Plasencia
Melodie Plummer
Kristy Polster
Bryan Popa
Jennifer Porter
Aaron Potter
Nathanael Powell



Softball is a major part of Stacks' family life

Sophomore Megan Stacks is comfortable both inside and behind the batter's box.

In fact, "Stackies" lives and breathes softball. She is the third baseman for the Merrillville girls' Softball Team and spends her summer as a National Softball Association umpire.

"I have been playing softball since I was eight," she said. "And I want to play in college, either at Purdue University Calumet or UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles)."

An honor roll student, Stacks plays on the high school team and with the Royals in the off-season. The Royals is a Hobart-based traveling team coached by MHS Coach Andy Niksich.

"Playing on the team has given me more experience on the field," Stacks said. "And it has helped me with my batting." She has a batting average of .283.

Stacks says she works out at Omni 41 in Schererville three to four times a week.

Her summers are spent on the other side of the batter's

box, working during NSA tournaments as an umpire. Last summer, she said she earned more than \$2000 umpiring softball games. Pay for umpires is \$25 per game, and on tournament weekends, umpires often work five to six games a day, Stacks said.

She also works as an umpire for the Merrillville Girls' Softball League at Hidden Lake Park.

Umpires are required to complete a two-day course, Stacks said, and spend a year learning the basics of umpiring. After two years, she qualified to work as an umpire.

"While I am playing, I'll know some of the umpires," Stacks said. "It's a lot of fun."

Members of Stacks' immediate family are all involved in softball. Her dad is the umpire in charge at Hidden Lake. Her sister Lauren plays for the girls' league and will be a freshman in 2003. Her brother Ian plays baseball in the boys' league. And Mom attends all of the games.

"The whole summer," Stacks said, "is pretty much softball."

Tim Balko and Laura Lackey

Sheridan Powell
Andrew Pritt
Brandon Pruitt
Katelyn Pruitt
Joseph Purevich
Mathew Quintanilla
Holly Radford
Andrea Rainaldi

Steven Ralston
Jimmy Ramirez
Maria Ramirez
Tanika Reed
Brett Relphorde
Jonathan Reynolds
Deven Rhymier
Jasmine Rice

Marnetta Richardson
Dell Riley
Miriam Rivera
Jeremy Roark
Anitra Robinson
Ashley Robinson
Eric Robinson
Evelyn Robinson

Romeo Robinson
Carolyn Rodriguez
Evangelina Rojo
Stephanie Rouba
Erika Rouse
Brandon Rush
Crown Russell
Jennifer Russell

Jocelyn Russell
Adam Sak
Brittany Sanders
Tremain Sanders
Kimberly Sandifer
Scott Santelik
Virgil Savage
Brendan Schafer

Meghan Schafer
Jeremy Schnurlein
Stephanie Sepulveda
Lindsey Sharp
Christopher Sheehan
Kiera Shelton
Nicole Shudick
Casey Sieb



Kristopher Simonovski
Stephanie Simpson
Jessica Sims
Rajinder Singh
Brett Skorupa
Amanda Slaughter
Laura Slavik
Thomas Slivka



David Smith
Jason Smith
Johnny Smith
Marques Smith
Steven Smith
Kimberly Sneiderwine
Joseph Sobek
Tammy Solich



Matthew Sopko
Zachary Sowash
Katherine Spaliaras
Alex Spangler
Erik Spila
Steven Stacker
Meghan Stacks
Joshua Stanek



Jeffrey Stelzer
Courtney Stephens
Nicole Steriovski
Christopher Sternberg
Michael Stevens
Katie Stites
Marjana Suleska
John Summers



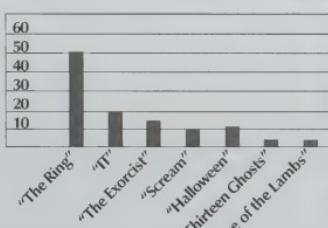
Dustin Tarr
Micah Teamer
Kendall Thomas
Carl Thompson
Jenna Thornley
Kefton Tinsley
Claudia Tirado
Mark Tokarski



Were one of these movies the



Scariest
movies



These are the results of a survey of 25 sophomores.



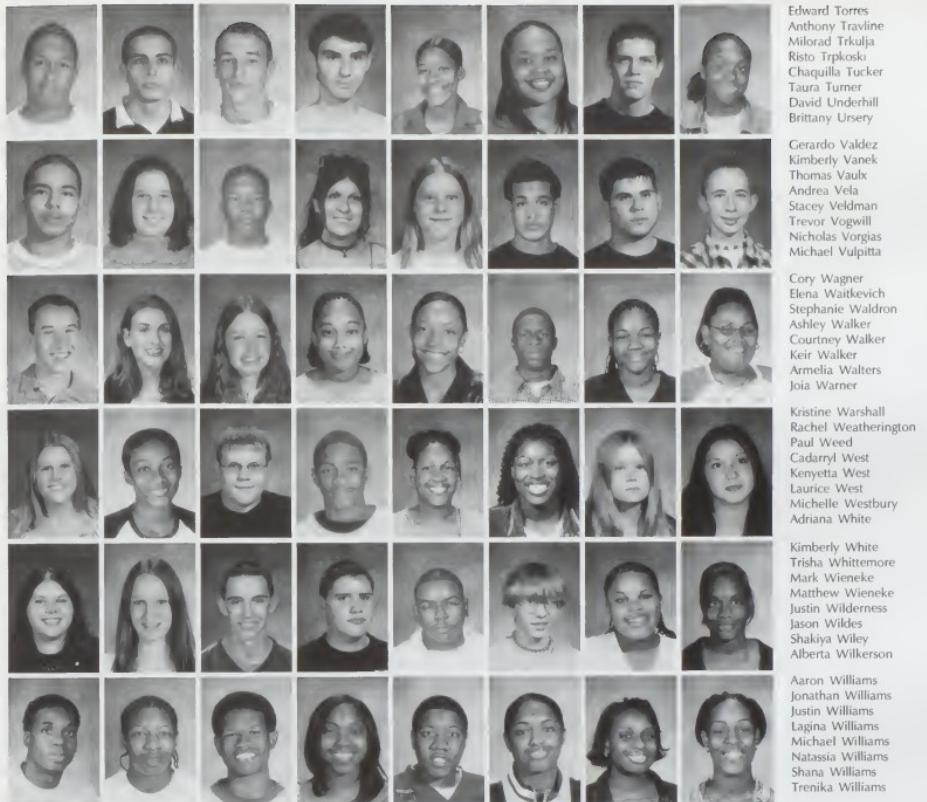
"IT," because it was Stephen King's best!"

Shakiya Wiley



"Silence of the Lambs," because the guy with the mask was creepy"

Anitra Robinson



Edward Torres
Anthony Travline
Milorad Trkulja
Risto Trpkoski
Chiquilla Tucker
Taura Turner
David Underhill
Brittany Ursery

Gerardo Valdez
Kimberly Vanek
Thomas Vaulx
Andrea Vela
Stacey Veldman
Trevor Vogwill
Nicholas Vorgias
Michael Vulpitia

Cory Wagner
Elena Waitkevich
Stephanie Waldron
Ashley Walker
Courtney Walker
Keir Walker
Armelia Walters
Joia Warner

Kristine Warshall
Rachel Weatherington
Paul Weed
Cadarry West
Kenetta West
Laurice West
Michelle Westbury
Adriana White

Kimberly White
Trisha Whitttemore
Mark Wieneke
Matthew Wieneke
Justin Wilderness
Jason Wildes
Shakila Wiley
Alberta Wilkerson

Aaron Williams
Jonathan Williams
Justin Williams
Lagina Williams
Michael Williams
Natassia Williams
Shana Williams
Trenica Williams

scariest you saw this year?



"IT,' because those clowns scared me"

Sahson Karimi



"Scream,'because the cute guy was killed"

Alisha Lucas



"Thirteen Ghosts,' because the people were all ugly."

Anthony Dennis



"Halloween.' It was awsome!"

Kevin Jordan

Ryan Willis
Braxton Wilson
Devin Wilson
Kendra Wilson
Genevieve Wirtz
Keegan Wise
Shaun Wood
Bart Woodward



John Wright
Samantha Wright
Curtis Wyatt
Antonios Yistras
Melissa Young
Alyssa Ziller

Q & A

"My boyfriend and I got back together."
Lindsey Sharp



"Having to walk an extra mile to get to our cars."
Jonathan Reynolds



"Getting to meet different people."
Michelle Jordan



"Getting to meet people of all different races."
Salimah Rasheed

What was the best thing that happened to you in high school so far?

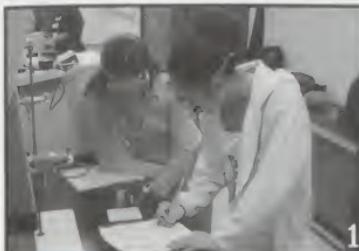
Camera Shy Sophomores

Matthew Bigelow
Nolan Buck
Brittany Caldwell
Sabrina Carlisle
Ebony Casey
Shawn Clark
Todd Cooper
Robert DeReamer
Britne Druckemiller
NaQuita Elmore
Reginald Flemming
Justin Gesting
Danielle Henderson
Ashley Heston
Candice Howard

David-Ki Hudson
Ashley Johnson
DeAundra Johnson
Antoinette Jones
Charles Jones
Gerard Jones
Khember Jones
Robbiann Keaton
Jonathon Kelley
Alexandra La Pinta
Anthony Llano
Quenesha Martin
Jason Mitchell
Whittney Mobley
Justin Morton

Danela Nihiser
Amy O'Neill
Pete Pena
Keith Ralston
Salimah Rasheed
James Reitz
Amy Richard
Jontae' Roberts
Amanda Ruiz
Deonte Sanders
Zeketh Sanders
Jeremy Schnurdein
Joshua Sellers
Brandon Sharp
Richard Shirley Jr.

Melissa Sienicki
Joshua Silva
Centresha Smith
Kyle Stewart
Sable Strickland
Mathew Struven
Christopher Sturdvant
John Thomas
Rachael Thomas
Caressa Upchurch
Valerie Veltri
Jessica Werth
Brandi White
Tara Woodruff



1 Dyan Darang and Elaina Gemelas.
2 Nicole Olivares and Megan Bravo.
3 Maria Ramirez and Bart Woodward.
4 Matthew Paul and Zachary Sowash.
5 Brittany Hamlin and Ashly Janovick.
6 Andrea Rainaldi. 7 David Smith.
8 Trevor Vogwill. 9 Jennifer Highsmith
and Gillian Alvear. 10 Dyan Darang
and Jaymini Dave. 11 Brian Kisza
and Brian Popa. 12 Chevon Earl.

Juniors

Class of '04



Juniors finally make it to the "upper class"

Finally known as upperclassmen, juniors have a sense of fulfillment.

Having completed two years of high school, juniors are more than half way done with their high school careers.

These two years were filled with trials and tribulations. During freshman year, everything

was so new, and during sophomore year, students had to deal with going unnoticed.

Now, they are filled with the anticipation of becoming seniors.

Some juniors spend much of their year dreaming about next year, their last high school year. They start making every day count.



1 Nicholas Pajon, Trent Harris and Jeffrey Kluga. 2 Cecil Collins and Clifford Cook. 3 Bradley Daniel and Jason Kendera. 4 Amy Wedding. 5 Lindsey Harrel and Jon Wargo. 6 Earl McClain.



Jeannette Acuna
Gregory Adams
Jennifer Agoris
Courtney Albright
Randall Aleman
Naimah Ali
Ryan Allender
Jorge Alvarez



Nadja Anderson
Dominic Angotti
Eleni Anton
Taneschia Armstrong
Daniel Avery
Sohail Azeeem
Michael Bakos
Tiarah Barker



Krysta Baron
Justin Barron
Jacqueline Bansich
Ayesha Basemore
Dee'Juana Bass
Brandon Battle
Antonio Becerra
Ashley Berger



Stephanie Bishop
Teilah Blakey
Tiara Blakey
Miguel Blanco
Brittiney Blue
Paul Bothwell
Laura Brake
Gregory Branda



Christina Braylock
Samantha Brazeau
Stacey Breen
Marian Bridges
Andre Brodie
Dominique Bronson
Latrice Brooks
Stephanie Brosch



Korrian Brown
Terrell Brown
Malorie Brummel
Jennifer Brusen
Philip Budde
Jeremy Buhse
Stephen Burke
Toreyl Burns



Jonathan Burum
Amanda Butler
Christine Bynum
Monika Cadikosova
Cody Camp
Anthony Carl
Jessica Carter
Michael Cartwright



Heather Casady
Andrew Christopher
Joseph Clark
Matthew Colbert
Vincent Cole
Ron Coleman
Tiana Coleman
Cedric Collins



Julie Collins
Brenda Conner
Lavashia Conner
Ashley Conroy
Edward Contreras
Clifford Cook
Lavell Cook
Natasha Copic

Q & A

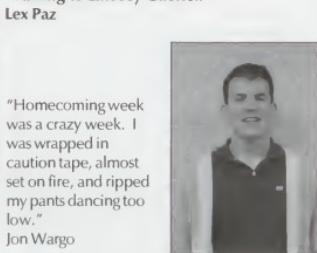
What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

"I went to the mall in a Halloween costume a month after Halloween."
Grace Rund



"Talking to Lindsey Gabriel."
Lex Paz

"Homecoming week was a crazy week. I was wrapped in caution tape, almost set on fire, and ripped my pants dancing too low."
Jon Wargo



"I went skydiving and the parachute didn't work."
Robert Wahlman

"I swam naked in a pool of jello — with a hippopotamus."
Shawn O'Keefe



"I told Dan Kwiatkowski online to call the cops because Dallas, Michelle and I heard someone walking around upstairs."
Tara Schaab

Erin Coughlin
Kristina Covarrubias
Justin Creech
Shaun Crittenden
Carlos Cuadra
Nicholas Cunningham
Joshua Curtis
Allison Czubik



Mark Daily
Ashley Dallas
Bradley Daniel
Michelle Danko
Anthony Davis
Christina Davis
Jasmine Dayon
Lisa DeLaRosa



Angela Delong
Brittney Dieterle
Ksenija Djukic
Marko Djukic
DeShaunte Dominguez
Joshua Donahue
Elizabeth Donelson
Patricia Dooley

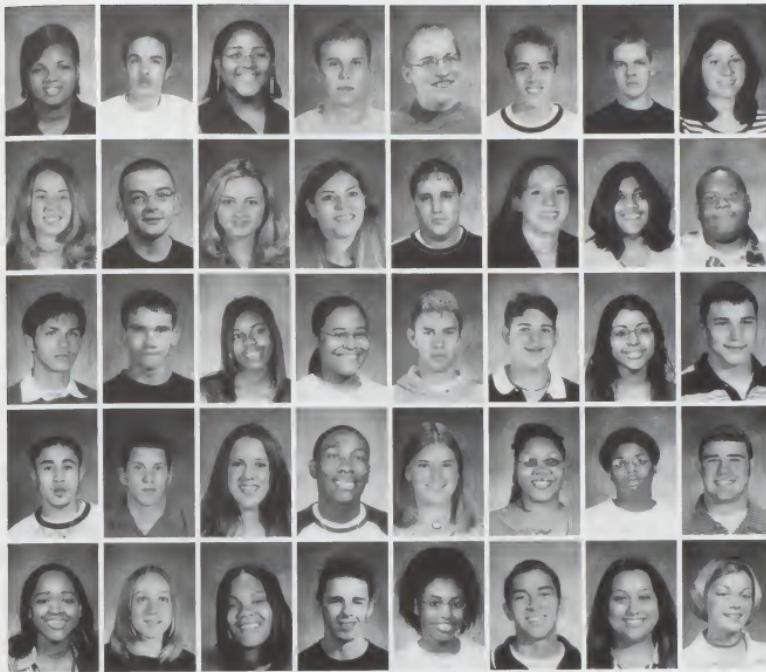


Jervai Drago
Julius Drake
Myeisha Dunlap
Daley Duso
Keith Earl
Raina Ernest
Keith Eaton, Jr.
Trevor Eich



Jaime Elder
Raleigh Ensen
Terese Erickson
Erica Faulkner
Michael Finneerty
Jason Fischer
Sharon Flack
Joanne Flores





Brittany Floyd
David Fridstrom
Ariole Frost
Nicholas Fulton
Steven Gaines
Steven Gavel
Joseph Gay
Jaclyn George

Ashley Gidley
Richard Gill
Sandra Gjurcinova
Aubrey Goble
Joshua Gonzales
Kelly Couwens
Lisa Graf
Darrel Graham

Benjamin Graves
Jeffrey Gregory
Verona Gregory
Fabian Griffin
Lorne Grimmer
Rodney Grove
Sonya Guerrero
Joseph Gutierrez

Matthew Gutierrez
Joseph Hall
Heidi Hammond
Jonathan Hardy
Lindsey Harrell
Nikkaya Harrell
Brandon Harris
Tren Harris

Renee Hatcher
Bridget Hauber
Tamara Haymon
Aaron Hebert
Cynthia Henry
Ricardo Hernandez
Vanessa Hernandez
Emily Herzog



1



2

1 Jeannelle Moreno and Robert Wahlman always find time during the busy day to see each other.
2 Joshua Yoldash and Daley Duso stop in the hallway to say hello.

Heidi Hammond



Many students play sports in high school, but often it is a rarity to find one who plays three sports. These students have to be as dedicated as possible, for their whole year is taken up by practices or games. One of these students is Junior Heidi Hammond. She plays volleyball during the fall, cheers in the winter, and in the spring she plays softball. Hammond was influenced by her sister Rachel to participate in these sports. Although she enjoys all of these sports, she says that during school she considers volleyball her favorite.

"I like volleyball season best because I get to bond with the team and we get really close," said Hammond. However, out of the sports she plays outside of school, Hammond says that softball is her favorite. Although she enjoys everything that she does, Hammond admits that playing sports does interfere with her life. School is often challenging when there is a game during the week and there is homework to be done when she gets home. Sometimes the busy schedule often leaves Hammond with no time to go out. There are always games during the week, in volleyball and softball, and on the weekend.

Despite these obstacles, Hammond continues to play. In all that she does, her family is always there supporting her. She says that they are extremely supportive and try never to miss one of her games.

Hammond has set high goals for herself. She wants to play softball in college; however, she does not know where she plans to go. Next year will be her last in high school, and Hammond is excited.

Hammond said, "I can't wait for next year, but I think high school has gone by too quickly because I have been so active."

Mary Kate Lucas

Jenna Hill
Suretha Hill
Travis Hodges
Amanda Holly
Mallory Homola



Where are
your favorite
high school
memories?



"At Diana's house because if there was nothing to do, we would go over there."
Ashley Dallas

"In the cafeteria because this is the only time you can hang out with your friends all day."

Michelle Rodriguez



"At the school because that's where I get to see everyone."

Lavell Cook

"At my house or Lindsey Harrel's because no matter what we did, we had fun."

Jonathan Warus



"Going out to eat with all my friends after football games."

Jolynn Vargas

"During lunch because I'm not sitting in class."

Thomas Vechey

Patryk Kosow
Kelly Kourtesis
Ryne Kroncke
Brandon Kraska
Shay Kuzma

Laura Lackey
Megan Lacy
Nicole Lagalo
Erika Larson
Ametta Lawrence

Daniel Lee
Ponya Lee
Rebecca Lee
Ian Lesko
Christine Leus

Andre Lewis
Brandon Lewis
Rebecca Longacre
Samantha Loo
Armida Lopez

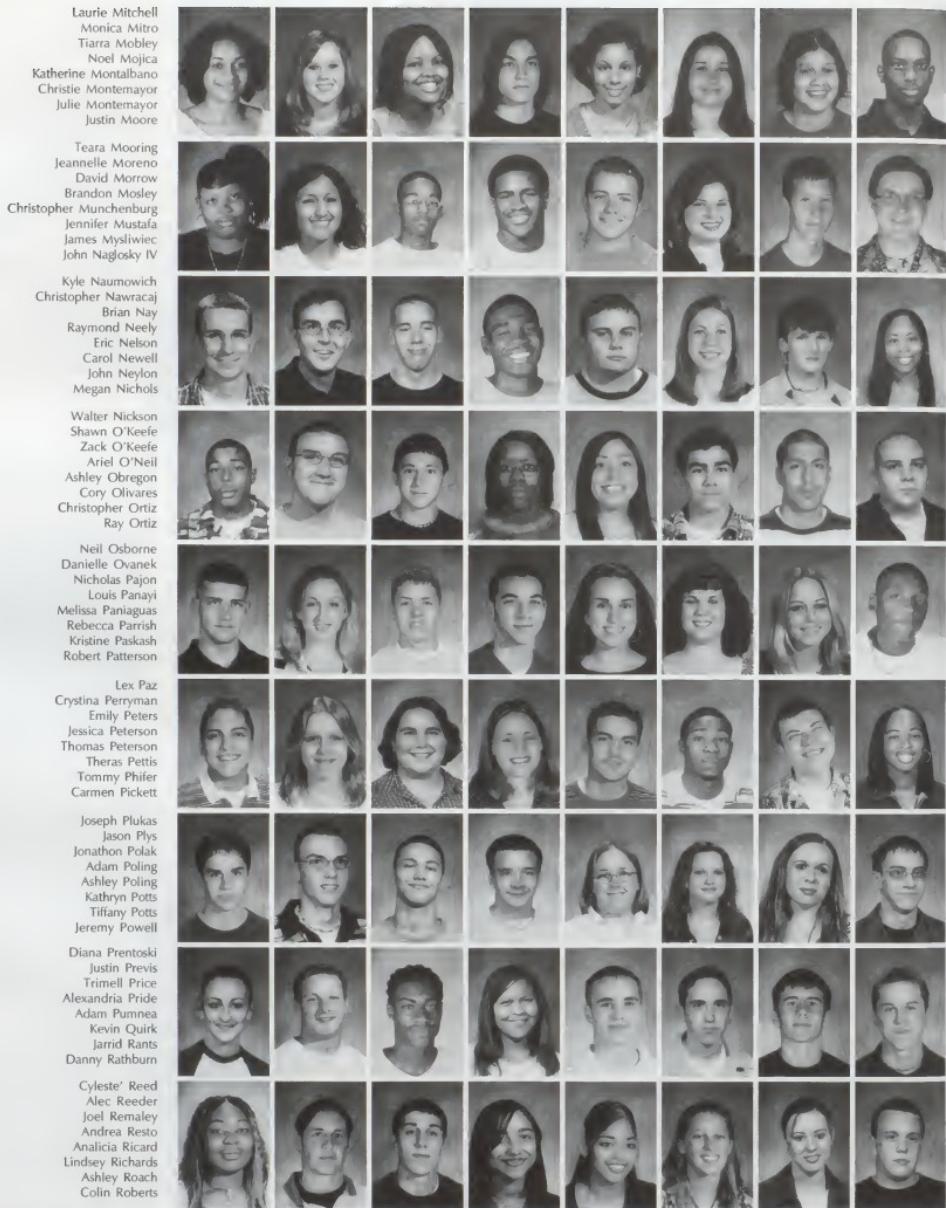
Cynthia Lopez
Dimitrija Lozevski
Richard Luehrs
Nicholas Luevano
Joseph Lutinen

Princess Madison
Hilary Marlinch
Joshua Marlow
Jamie Marsh
Lyneice Marshall

Jennifer Mason
Michael Massengill
Michelle Metheny
Jason Mazalan
Tiffany McCauley

Earl McClain
Jason McClinton
Sharde McKinney
Isaiah Mercado
Rico Merced

Angela Merritt
Stephanie Mesa
Jeffery Messinio
Courtney Miano
Ryan Miller



Q & A

"They all know how to make me laugh."

Steven Vanek

"Their honesty and good sense of humor."

Bojan Jovanovich



Jonathan Warus, Lindsey Harrel, Jamie Kistinger and Jason Kendera



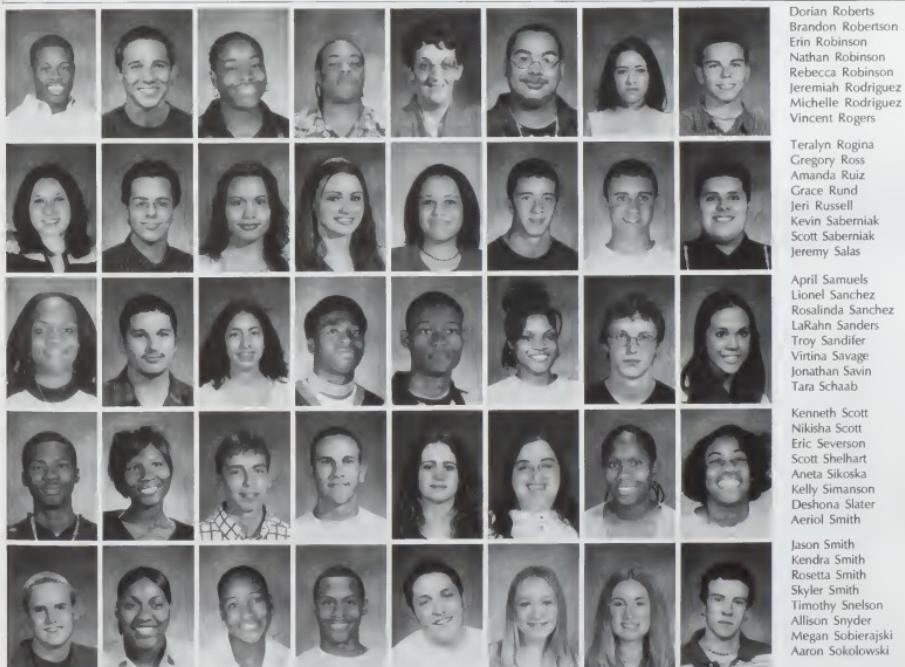
Vincent Cole and Carol Newell



Trisha Dooley and Laura Lackey

"They are outgoing, weird, and always there when I need them."

Lindsey Harrel



Dorian Roberts
Brandon Robertson
Erin Robinson
Nathan Robinson
Rebecca Robinson
Jeremiah Rodriguez
Michelle Rodriguez
Vincent Rogers

Teralyn Rogina
Gregory Ross
Amanda Ruiz
Grace Rund
Jeri Russell
Kevin Saberniak
Scott Saberniak
Jeremy Salas

April Samuels
Lionel Sanchez
Rosalinda Sanchez
LaRahn Sanders
Troy Sandifer
Virtina Savage
Jonathan Savin
Tara Schaab

Kenneth Scott
Nikisha Scott
Eric Severson
Scott Shelhart
Aneta Sikoska
Kelly Simonson
Deshona Slater
Aerial Smith

Jason Smith
Kendra Smith
Rosetta Smith
Skyler Smith
Timothy Snelson
Allison Snyder
Megan Sobierajski
Aaron Sokolowski



1

1 Keith Eaton and Samantha Loo. 2 Ashley Gidley, Jason Plys, Joanne Flores, Megan Sobierajski and Shawn O'Keefe.

Lindsey Solomon
Dana Spann
Derron Spencer
Justin Stanley
Tara Stanley
Jeremy Stempel
Nicole Stompor
Nathan Street

Sara Street
Daniel Strom
Cathryn Stupic
Jeffrey Sturm
Jodi Suggs
Christel Sumichrast
Elisa Szany
Joseph Szcerba

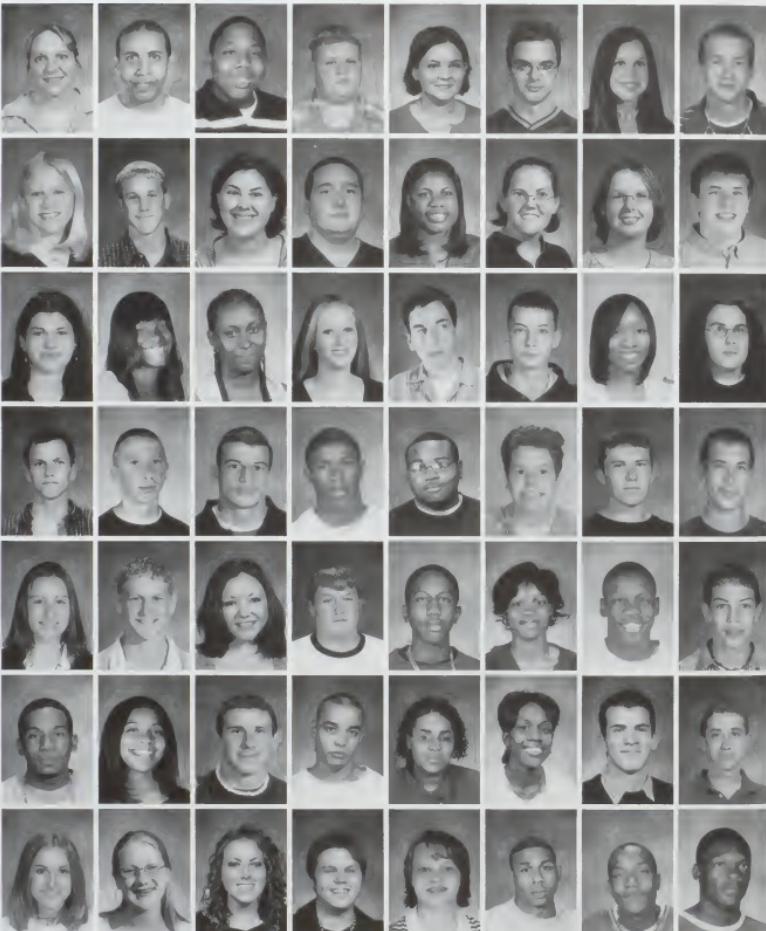
Natalia Taleff
Nikia Tanna
Tanya Terrene
Rebecca Terrene
Paul Terrebonne
Alex Thien
Lanesha Thomas
Kevin Thomason

Christopher Tokarski
Robert Toth
David Trajkovski
Jh'rome Tuggle
Randall Turner
Sarah Turner
William Urban
Steven Vanek

Jolynn Vargas
Thomas Vechey
Melissa Velasco
Stephen Veldman
Raymone Vickerstaff
Antonette Vinson
Antonio Vinson
Ryan Vurva

Lucius Wade
Melissa Wadley
Robert Wahlman
Joshua Wait
Marissa Walls
Joycelyn Walters
Jon Wargo
Jonathan Warus

Megan Watson
Natalie Weall
Amy Wedding
Alan Weller
Meghan Westphal
Jerrod Wilcher
Christopher Williams
Jerry Williams



1 Kristine Paskash, Ashley Berger and Courtney Miano.
2 Dominique Bronson, Suretha Hill, Megan Nichols, April
Samuels and Steven Vanek.



1



2



Khalisa Williams
Breznee Wilson
Dale Wilson
Kathleen Wilson
Jessica Windbigler
Charde' Wise



Courtney Woodfaulk
Reginald Woods
David Wright
Daniel Wydro
Jered Yagelski
Jeremy Yarrington



Joshua Yoldash
Samantha Yurechko
Zivan Zukula
Gabriel Ziegler
Anna Ziemiak
Jeffrey Zweig II

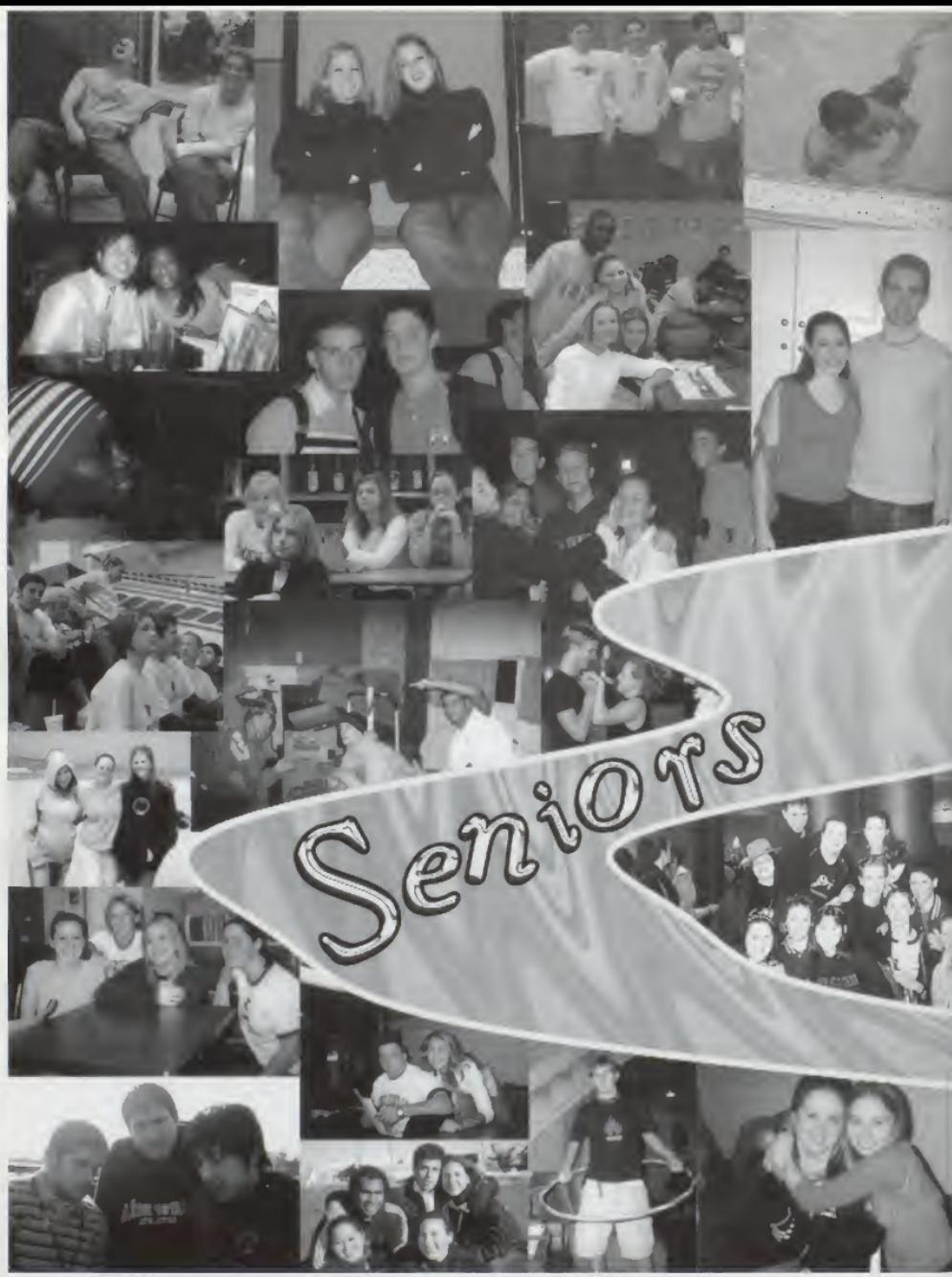
Camera Shy Juniors

Nicholas Andreatos
Julian Arce
Bernard Beard
Robin Berry
Verdell Berry
Deonda Blue
Oscar Bradley
Darnesha Brown
Jessica Brown
Kristoffer Brown
Ovid Brown
Troy Brown
Christopher Bryson
Cynthia Bulanda
Cecil Collins
Brenton Connally
Robert Davis
Kimberly Deming
Joseph Desi
Marissa Dumas
Krystal Edgington

Raffael Fester
LeAn Flanagan
Ramone Frost
Jerry Gardner
Jason Gary
Aurora Garza
Christopher Garza
Onette Galdin II
Hannah Gillooly
Delorean Gray
Tamica Green
Justin J. Grzybowski
Nicole Handley
Kiyanna Harris
Joeljuanna Hemphill
Steven Hord
Charles Humphrey
Marquis Jackson
Derrick Jones
Bianca Joseph
Amber Kaste

Erica Leanos
Donyell Lewis
Ashley Lofton
Kelly Magee
Brandon Mahone
De'jevon McFerson
Patrick McGee
Brandon Miller
Tiana Nash
Rekia Paschal
Curtis Parker
Pete Pena
Tabitha Pepper
Alicia Pinkins
Taleia Powell
Robyn Ratclif
Sharise Rogers
Amanda Ruiz
Amanda Rutledge
Krysolt Schmitt
David Smith

Jessie Smith
Nicholas St. Clair
Lamar Strickland
Raymond Taylor
James Teamer
Clinton Tucker
Sophia Tucker
Kimberly Verdugo
Kenneth Walker
Andre Ware
Jaznene Washington
Chante Wesby
Patrick Westbury
Wilbert Wilkerson
Lindsey Williams
Melanie Williams
Lindsey Wills
Amanda Wojtysiak
Bernard Worsham
Saundra Wright
Destine Young





Idris Sadiq Abdul-Halil

Jeff Abregos

Christopher Lúc Adam

Florian Aeschimann

Cory Alder



Christine Marie Aloia

Taneschia Amey

Jake Appleton

Jeremiah L. Ashe

Brian Ashford



Shannon Ayers

Bill Bailey

Enrique R. Balerini

Timothy James Balko, Jr.

William Bandy, Jr.



Allison Banser

Christopher Barbauld

Caleb Bateman

Kamika Battle

Dana Rochelle Bellard



Michael A.J. Berta

Kyle Beshears

Paul Dé Angelo Best

Josh Biancardi

Nicole Bielak



Stephanie Lynn Bigelow

Ryan Bishop

Brian Boksa

Chivon Octavia Bonilla

Heath Boone





Angela Courice Bowden
Aubrey Ann Brainerd
Peter Alexander Brasovan
Shawna Breitenstein
Joceina Bridges



Schuyler Brooks, Jr.
LeAnn Brown, Jr.
Shawna Brown
Patrick Buck
Cindy Bulanda



Molly Ann Burt
Jared Alan Byczko
Steven Campbell
Domenica Marie Campos
Sarah Cardwell



Jon Carter
Jeffery Champion II
Arlesia Rachale Clanton
Gary Clark
Tameshia Clark



Aaron Clemens
Jennifer Coates
Martin Cole
Lee Cotton
Amanda K. Cousino



Philip Craft
Aariean Crawford
Brian Joseph Cruz
Mariel Cruz
Guille Anthony Dabu

Kristina Damjanoska
Karen A. Daw
Jared James Dawson
Deniel Dean
David A. Degard II



Josef Delacruz
Nicole M. Dermeuse
Shannon Diane Deutsch
Joshua Michael Diaz
Joshua Adam Diehl



Crystal Dilosa
Angela R. Doeing
Bradley Scott Dow
Steven Doxas
Jennifer Nicole Duggins



Melissa Duttwiler
Kevin Dwyer
Jacob East
Krystal Edgington
Joi-Lyn Eller



Wessam Elomar
Rebecca Ruth Evans
Jeanette Lynn Fabian
Michelle Lynn Farley
Kevin Paul Farmer



Todd Ferguson
Caitlin Danielle Floyd
Nicholas Fogarty
Alysia Fortney
David Frank





Joseph David Frasca
Marcus Tyrelland
Donald Freeman
Katalin Freund
Ronda Fruehling



Tamika Fultz
Lindsey Gabriel
Jennifer Gabrysiak
Liz Galliotti
Nicholas M. Garcia



Dominique Garibay
Cassandra Marie Garner
Christina J. Garza
Cliff Colon
Cynthia Gonzalez



Mike Gonzalez
Emily Graun
April Graves
Cora Jane Gray
Kristopher Greene



Riste Grezovski
Stuart Guernsey
Jon Gutierrez
Jaclyn Dana Hac
Abby Hacker



Christopher Hadt
Kelly Halcarz
Stephanie Lynn Hall
Jarrell Hamilton
Damara Rochelle Hamlin

Celia J. Hahn
Breon Hawke
Christopher Harris
Krystal Denise Harter
Sharon L. Hawkins



Bryan Head
Jenny Heidler
Jamar Henderson
Sabrina Marie Hennion
Dominique Henry



Alex Hernandez
Gregg Hernandez
Jacob Hernandez
Michael S. Hill
Schmekia Hinton



Erin Holland
Tim Holley
Deanna B. Howard
Mark Huber
Diana Hughes



Megan Hulbert
Christopher David Humes
Kathleen Marie Hyzy
Henry Victor Jackowski III
Kyle Jackson



Stefanie Jackson
Clifford James, Jr.
Nick Janakiewski
Nikisha Jefferson
Corey Johnson





Mykah Johnson
Parker Johnson
Jacleen Joiner
Paula Jones
Joseph Martin Jordan



Amanda Joselyn
Brian Jostes
Dikah Jwyne
Tia Kanyon Midis
Sarah Kennedy



Donavan Kepchar
Corey Kesler
Zach Kezy
Shannan Kimbrough
Nakesha King



Kimberly Kish
Shane Klar
Anthony Michael Klipper
Matthew David Krysa
Paul Kurczynski



Sheryl Kwell
Dan Kwiatkoski
Brad Lake
Geoffrey Michael Lalic
Paulo Laorden



Ronte Lee
Andrew Leicht
Joseph Leloup
James Adrian Leonard
Adam Lewis

Dwana Denise Lewis
Jerwuan Lewis
Jacqueline Janvier Lipsky
Ashley Lofton
Danny Lopez



Mary Kate Lucas
Crystal M. Lumpkin
Kara Christine Lux
Michael A. Malakie
Temidayo Macarthy



Daniel Madura
Naomi Magallan
Emily Ann Mandich
Steven Marcus
Gary Marek



Michaela Amanda Martin
Yvonne Martinez
Demetria Latrise Massengill
Eve Matczak
Destiny Gabrielle Mathis



Crysital Matson
Laura Matyjas
Rebecca Ann McCarty
Heather McCoy
Desiree McDaniel



William Benjamin McGhee
Amanda McIntire
Wade McKinley
Jamie McLaughlin
Lauren Ann McLindon





Kevin Urick McMullin
Ashley McNeil
Melissa Dawn Mendenich
Donnie J. Metlovski
Nick E. Miles



Mallorie Mitchell
Amanda Moor
Ricardo V. Moreno
Nicole Morales
Eric Morris



Keith Murphy Jr.
Nicole Murphy
Tara Murphy
Vangel Nacovski
Matt Nadolski



Robert Ryan Nava
Arlinda Christina
Nava-Mc Cain
Claudia Esterlene
Nava-McCain
Monique Lisette Navarro
Tany Talisha
Michelle Neal



V. Renee Neanover
Brian P. Nienhaus
Eric Nolan
Jason Nyongani
Kathryn O'Brien



Jason O'Hearn
Kelly O'Keefe
Kristina Ojleska
Noyan Olcum
Laura Orozco

Jaime George Ortiz
Daniel Lee Pidberg, Jr.
Jesus Palomo, Jr.
Angela Papamihalakis
Monica Parker



Felicia Parks
Nisha Patel
Nicole Patterson
Megan Ann Pawl
Shirdai Pearson

Jessica Peete
Cole Perkins
Christina Peschke
Patrick J. Petrovich
Pauline Petruich

Heather Philippe
Michele Phillips
Chad Pierce
Jennifer Ponce
Ebony Pope

Jill Porter
Katrina Portis
Takisha Portis
Aaron Powell
Kate Prentoski

Casady Suzanne Pruitt
Joseph Quenett
Ciro Ramos II
Trevy Ana Ramos
Pedro Rangel



Jennifer Loon Reid
Igor Rofalki
Deanna Maria Rivera
Julia Roames
Mark Roberts



Melissa Lynn Robinson
Raquelha Robinson
Tynia Roby
Vanessa Rodriguez
Tara Marie Rogers

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David M. Rooda
Elisabeth Ann Rund
Antonio Sablan
Edward Sablan
Jessica Sanchez



Kate Marie Santaramo
Anayeli Santos
Theresa Schubert
Dyann Marie Segvich
Patrice Kaye Selmon



Kimberly Shapley
Amanda Elizabeth Simpson
Sean Simpson
Justin Singer
Dale William Skalba



Jennifer Slivka
Darius Smith
Jonathan Smith
Kasee Chevon Smith
Kaye Denine Smith

Matthew Smith
Tiffany A. Smith
Sean Sohacki
Laura R. Sopko
Aleksandar Sotiroski



David Spaliaris
Nicole R. Sparger
Lindsay Sperling
Kenny Stanzione
Fontaine Stegall



Rebecca M. Stephen
Lora E. Sterley
Adam Stetson
Tony Stoiko
Brittney Danielle Stoica



Matt Stone
Aimee Lynn Street
Eric Street
Lauren Marie Strom
Samantha Sullivan



Steven Sumichrast
Jamie L. Sweeney
Kelly Swickard
Meagan Sylva
Kathleen Kelley Szot



Katie R. Tantis
Ricky Tantis
Anthony Taylor
Ashly D. Taylor
Chris TerDiest





Giovanni Thomas
Sarah Thomas
Dione Thor
Jasmine Thornton
Jenna Kathleen Throw



Tank Tolhuizen
Levi Marvin Torrence
Vincent Torres
Christophe Brian Trapane
Julie Anne Trimble



Andy Troupos
Shaina Tucker
Candace A. Turner
Ryan N. Turner
Christine Uzelac



Kyle Vafidis
Sara D. Valdez
Jeton Valentin
Vincent Vallo
Christopher Vargas

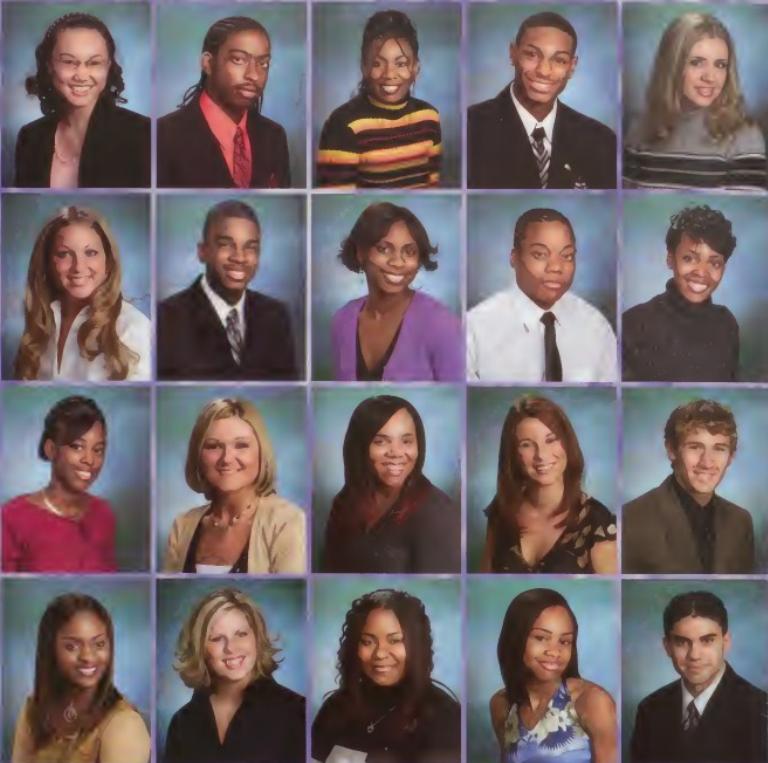


Laura A. Vaughn
Adriana B. Vega
Jonathon A. Vergin
Anthony Wachholz
Michael Wadley



Brandon Kiel Waldrop
Cheri Walls
Nick Walter
Lindsay Marie Warus
Shawn Washington

Waricha Lynn Watthanapha
Rodney Waxton
Chante Wesley
Martell White
Jessica Michelle Wimke



Camera Shy Seniors

Christopher Ague
Thomas Arroyo
Kwame K. Asabere
Daniel Avery
Alan David Balich
Eric S. Barcenas
Deandre Barnett
LaShawnna Beard
J. Christopher Bishop
Samantha J. Breneeman
Danielle Bronson
Latrice Brooks
Amanda L. Budde
Jennifer L. Clark
Keicia Clegg
Tristen Anjuli Congress
David Coughlin
Jarret Darling
Brittany Davis
Kenjina Djukic
Frederick K. J. Dobry
Matt Eckstrom

Jason Fischer
Lisette Flores
Brian Fravel
Michael Froehlich
Krystal Gonzales
Derek Greenberg
Jennifer Griffin
Lawrence Hargrove
Raphael Harris
Amber Kay Hauber
Matt Hinjak
James Hobson
Trevor Jay Hodges
Michael K. Howard
Patrick Howland
Jemika Hunter
Carl Hurd
TeNitá Jamison
Denise Johnson
Damien Scott Jukles
Ravinder Kaur
James Kelly
John Knezevich

James Kuzminski
Donald Lee
DWNA Denise Lewise
Craig Lisa
Demetruis Mabon
Jeselyn Marquis
Gabriel Martin
Courtney McCarty
Christian McMillon
Jason Mizumakoski
Carl Montgomery
Kathryn Murray
Alisha Nalls
Odunyalo Obajuludwa
Tyrone Page
Tommy Phifer
Rachel A. Powers
Timothy Price
Gregory Refner
Jerelyn Richards
Michelle Rivera
Rebecca Robinson
Breon Aundre' Rosebrook

Derek Roldan
Tito Savage
Jacquay Scott
Dyan Sierra
Vangel Sikoski
Michael Simpson
Jessie Smith
Dane M. Spann
Anthony Stout
Brandon Strange
Shannon E. Szala
Adam Tegtmann
Paul Terrebonne
Sarah Turner
Annie Valdez
John Vazanelli
Joshua Werth
Carlette Williams
Quinetta Williams
Lindsey Wills
Chairissa Wright
Louis Z. Moura
Brian Zelisko



206 Seniors

Idris Sadiq Abdul Hafiz - Football 10; JETS 12; Key Club 11,12; Student Government 12

Jeff Abrego - Building Trades 11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; Key Club 12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12

Christopher Luc Adams - Autoshop 12; Diving 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11; Marine Biology 9,12; National French Test 9,10; Pin Pal 9,10; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 12

Florian Aeschenmann - Foreign Exchange Student 12; Tennis 12

Christopher Agne

Cory Adler

Christine Marie Aloia - Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Cheerleading Captain 12; Class Government 11,12; Choral Teens 11,12; Fall Play 12; French Club 9,10,11,12; French Club Officer 12; National Honor Society 11,12; National Honor Society Officer 12; National French Test 10,11,12; Prom Committee 12; Revue 11,12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Play 11; Student Government 10,11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Vocal Teens 11,12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball Captain 12

Tanesha Amey - Concert Choir 10; FCCLA 12; Key Club 12; Peer Mediator 11; Prom Committee 11,12; Revue 12; Varsity Choir 9

Jake Appleton - Autoshop 10,11; Football 9,10,11,12; Track 10,11

Thomas Arroyo

Kwame K. Asabere - Soccer 9,10,11,12; Track 9

Jeremiah L. Ashe - Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu 9,10,11,12; Key Club 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Student Government 12

Brian Ashford - JETS 11,12; Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12

Daniel Avery

Shannon Ayers - Marching Band 9,10

Bill Bailey

Enrique R. Balerini - Spanish Club 11; Spanish Club Officer 11;

Alan David Balich - Class Officer 9; Class Government 9,10; National Honor Society 11,12

Timothy James Balko, Jr. - Athlete; Office Aide 12; Class Government 12; Diving 11,12; Environmental Club 11,12; Marine Biology 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Newspaper 11,12; Newspaper Editor 12; Quill & Scroll 11,12; Quill & Scroll Vice-President 12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 11,12; Yearbook 12

William Bandy, Jr. - Basketball 12; Cross Country 10; Key Club 12; Track 10,12

Allison Banser - Office Aide 10,12

Christopher Barbauld - Office Aide 9,10,12; Student Government 11,12

Eri S. Barcenas - Cross Country 12; Track 12; Wrestling 12

Deandre Barnett

Caleb Bateman - Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 9,11,12; Drum Major 12; Fall Play 10,11,12; ISSMA Solo and Ensemble 9,10,11,12; Kids on the Block 10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Revue 9,10,11,12; Science Olympiad 9,10; Spring Play 9,10,11,12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Thespian Officer 11; Winter Drum Line 10,11,12

Kamika Battle

LaShawna Beard - Commencement Planning Committee 12; Key Club 11,12; Key Club Officer 12; Peer Mediator 10,11; PNN 10,11

Michael A.J. Berta - Football 10,11,12; Soccer 9; Student Advisory Committee 9,10,11,12

Kyle Beshears - Concert Band 9,10,11,12; German Club 12; ISSMA Solo Contestant 9,10,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Marching Band Captain 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Revue 11,12; SADD 9; Teens for Christ 10; Winter Drum Line 10,11,12; Drum Line Captain 12

Paul Dè Angelo Best - Commencement Planning Committee 12; Fall Play 12; Future Educators of America 12; FCCLA 12; Inspirational Choir 9,10,11; Key Club 9,10,11,12; Key Club Officer 11,12; Key Club State Lieutenant Governor-Indiana District 12; Guidance Aide 11,12; National Helpers 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Peer Helper 11; Peer Mediator 10,11,12; PNN 12; Prom Committee 12; Spring Play 11; Student Advisory Committee 9,10,11,12; SADD 12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; STAND/WITT 9,10,11,12; Teens for Christ 9,10,11,12

Josh Biancardi

Nicole Bielak - Fall Play 9; Peer Mediator 10; Varsity Choir 9

Stephanie Lynn Bigelow - Class Government 11,12; Choral Teens 11,12; Fall Play 12; Prom Committee 11; Revue 12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Play 11; Student Government 11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Vocal Teens 12

Christopher Bishop - Football 9; Key Club 12; Track 11,12

Ryan Bishop - Aggressive In-Line Skating; Art Club 9; Drama Club 11; FCCLA 11,12; Football 9; Revue 12

Brian Boska

Chivon Octavia Bonilla - PNN 11,12; Student Government 10

Heath Boone - Art Club 10,12

Angela Cherice Bowden - Cheerleading 9; Commencement Planning Committee 12; Dance Team 9; Drama Club 9; French Club 10,11; Key Club 12; Peer Mediator 10,11; PNN 12; Powder Puff 9; Track 9,10

Aubrey Ann Brainard - Class Government 9,10; Creative Writing Club 11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drum Major 11,12; Fall Play 10,11; ISSMA 9,10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Marine Biology 10; Newspaper 9,10; Newspaper Feature Editor 9,10; Orchestra 11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Quill & Scroll 10; Spring Play 10,11; Thespians 11,12; Winter Drum Line 11

Peter Alexander Brasovan - Autoshop 12; Basketball 9; JETS 11; National Honor Society 11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 11,12; Track 9,10,11,12

Shawna Breitenthal - Football Student Manager 11,12; Pin Pal 11; SADD 10,11,12; SADD Officer 11,12; STAND/WITT 10; Wrestling Student Manager 11,12

Samantha J. Breneman

Jocerina Bridges - Bowling Team 10,11,12; Concert Choir 9; Newspaper 9; Spanish Club 9

Danielle Bronson

Sylvester Brooks, Jr. - Football 9,10,11,12

Latrice Brooks

Leon Brown, Jr. - Football 9,10,11

Shawna Brown

Patrick Buck - Football 10

Amanda L. Budde

Molly Ann Burr - Class Government 9,10,11; Concert Choir 10; Newspaper 11,12; Newspaper Sports Editor 12; SADD 9; Student Government 9,10,11; Teacher Aide 12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 10; Varsity Choir 9

Jared Alan Byczko - Autoshop 12; Baseball 9; Basketball 9; Football 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 11,12; Track 10,11,12; Track Captain 12

Steven Campbell - Autoshop 10; Debate 11; Key Club 10; Student Government 9;

Domenica Marie Campos - Band-Marching 9,10; Band-Pep 9,10; Guidance Aide 12; Pirate Radio 9

Sarah Cardwell - Class Government 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9; Fall Play 10; FCCLA 10; Guidance Aide 10,11; Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Natural Helpers 10,11,12; Newspaper 12; Newspaper Editor 12; Newspaper Features Editor 12; Peer Mediator 10; Prom Committee 12; Quest 10,11,12; Quill and Scroll 12; Student Government 9,11,12; STAND 12; Teachers Aide 12

Jon Carter - Autoshop 11,12

Jeffery Champion II - Football 9,12; Teens for Christ 11,12

Arlesia Rachale Clanton - Art Club 9,10; FCCLA 9,10,11,12; French Club 9; Key Club 12; Quest 11; Revue 12

Gary Clark - Football 11; Track 10,11,12

Jennifer L. Clark

Tameshia Clark - HERO 12; PNN 11

Aaron Clemens - Building Trades 11,12; Marching Band 9

Kecia Clenna

Jennifer Coates - Drama Club 12; Golf 10,11; Marching Band 9; Softball 10,11,12; Student

Government 11; Volleyball 9

Martin Cole - Autoshop 12; German Club 10; Prom Court 11; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 11,12; Student Athletic Trainer 12; Track 9,10,11,12; Wrestling 11; Weightlifting Competition 11,12

Tristen Anjuli Congress - Basketball 9; Concert Choir 10,11; FCCLA 10; FCCLA Officer 10; Key Club 12; Quest 10; Revue 11,12; Track 10; Track Captain 10; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 12

Lee Cotton - Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Pirate Radio 9,10; PNN 9,10,12; Winter Drum Line 10,11

David Coughlin - Basketball 9,10,11,12; PNN 10,11; Student Trainer 12

Amanda K. Cousins - Art Club 12; Art Club Officer 12; Teacher Aide 12

Philip Craft

Aariean Crawford - African American History Club; Creative Writing Club 11,12; French Club 12; Key Club 11,12; Quest 12; Track 9,10,12

Brian Joseph Cruz - Diving 10; Soccer 10,11,12; Swimming 10; Track 10,11

Mariel Cruz

Guille Anthony Dabu - Class Government 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Spell Bowl Team 9,10,11; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer 11,12

Kristina Damjanoska - Class Officer 9; French Club 9,10,11,12; Natural Helpers 9; Peer Mediator 10; Revue 12;

Jarret Darling

Brittany Davis

Karen A. Davis - Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12; Color Guard 10; Quest 11

Jared James Dawson - Baseball 9,10,11,12; Football 11,12; STAND 9

Deniel Dean - Cheerleading 9,10; Color Guard 11,12; Key Club 12

David A. Degard II

Josef Delacruz

Nicole M. Demeuze

Shannon Diane Deutsch - Key Club 11,12; Natural Helpers 10,11,12; Peer Mediator 9,10; Quest 10,11,12; Revue 11,12

Joshua Michael Diaz - Art Club 9; Basketball 9; Key Club 12; Marine Biology 12; Soccer 10,11,12; Swimming 10,11,12

Joshua Adam Diehl - Baseball 9; Girls' Tennis Student Manager 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Student Government 11,12; Tennis 10,11,12; Tennis Captain 12

Crystal Dilosa - HERO 12

Ksenija Djukic

Frederick J. Dobry - Basketball 9,10; Key Club 11,12; Key Club Officer 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Track 10

Angela R. Doeing - Concert Choir 10,11; Teacher Aide 10,11,12; Teens for Christ 11,12; Varsity Choir 9

Bradley Scott Dow - Autoshop 10,11; HERO 12; Marching Band 9

Steven Doxas - Jazz Strings 11,12; Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra 10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Track 10

Jennifer Nicole Duggins - Aide 11; Cake Decorating 10,11; HERO 12
Melissa Duttwiler - Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11; Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Revue 10,11,12; Spring Play 10,11,12; Teacher Aide 12; Thespians 10,11,12; Varsity Choir 9
Kevin Dwyer - Autoshop 11; Debate 10; Football 9,10,11,12
Jacob East
Matt Eckstrom
Jo-Lyn Elley - Key Club 12; Spanish Club 12; Spring Play 12; Teens for Christ 12
Wessam Elomar
Rebecca Ruth Evans - Concert Choir 10; Drama Club 9,12; Fall Play 11,12; Kids on the Block 9; Newspaper 11; Newspaper Opinion Editor 11; Pep Club 9; Spring Play 11,12; Student Government 11; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 11,12
Jeannette Lynn Fabian - Marching Band 9,10; Dance Team 9,10; Dance Team Captain 10; Golf 11; Natural Helpers 9
Michelle Lynn Farley - Guidance Aide 12; Student Government 10,12
Kevin Paul Farmer - Aide 11,12; HERO 11,12
Todd Ferguson - Autoshop 12
Jason Fischer
Lisette Flores
Caitlin Danielle Floyd - Band 9,10; Basketball Student Trainer 12; Dance Team 9,10,11; Dance Team Captain 10; Football Student Trainer 12; German Club 9,10,11,12; German Club President 10,11,12; Student Government 11,12; Track Student Trainer 11,12; Winter Drum Line 11
Nicholas Fogarty - Autoshop 11
Alysia Fortney - Cross Country 10,11,12; Key Club 12; Prom Court 11; Prom Queen 11; Track 9,10,11,12
David Frank - Football 11; Golf 12; Wrestling 10,11,12
Joseph David Frasca - Basketball 9,10; Basketball 9; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Track 11,12; Track Captain 12
Brian Fravel
Marcus Freelend
Donald Freeman - HERO 12
Katalin Freund - Foreign Exchange Student 12; German Club 12; Swimming 12; Tennis 12
Michael Frost - Aide 12; Autoshop 11,12
Ronda Fruehling - Marching Band 9; Choral Teens 11; Dance Team 9; Pep Band 9; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Velveteens 11
Tamika Fultz - FCCLA 10; Prom Committee 11,12; SADD 9; STAND 12; Teens for Christ 10,11,12
Lindsey Gabriel - Boys' Soccer Manager 12; Class Government 11,12; Newspaper 12; Student Government 10,11,12
Jennifer Gabrysik - Cheerleading 9
Liz Gallinatti - Basketball 9,10; Key Club 12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12
Nicholas M. Garcia - Art Club 9; Building Trades 11,12
Dominique Garibay - Class Government 11,12; Football Homecoming Court 12; Quest 12; Student Government 11,12
Cassandra Marie Garner - Concert Choir 9; German Club 11,12; Library Aide 10; Office Aide 9; Spanish Club 10,11,12; Spanish Club Officer 11,12; SADD 11,12; Teacher Aide 11
Christina J. Garza
Cliff Golon - Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11,12; Key Club 12; Natural Helpers 11,12; Pirate Radio 9,10; PNN 9,10; Prom Committee 12; Quest 11,12; Spring Play 11,12; Student Government 10,11,12; Student Government Officer 11,12; Swimming 10; Thespians 11,12
Cynthia Gonzalez - French Club 9,10,11,12; French Club Officer 12; Key Club 9,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12
Krystal Gonzalez - Key Club 12; Soccer 12

Mike Gonzalez - Class Government 9,10,11; Golf 9,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 9,10,12; Student Government 9,10,11
Emily Graun - Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11; FCCLA 9,10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Pin Pal 11; Spring Play 10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12; Winter One Acts 12
April Graves - Choral Teens 12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,12; Key Club 11; Revue 9,10; Spring Play 10,11; Teers for Christ 9,10,11,12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10,11
Cora Jane Gray - Boys' Track Student Manager 9; Cheerleading 9,10; Cheerleading Captain 9; Class Officer 9; Class Government 9,10,11,12; Choral Teens 11; French Club 10; Quest 12; Revue 10; Spring Play 11; Student Government 11,12; Student Government Officer 11; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Lifestyles Editor 12
Derek Greenberg
Kristopher Greene - Choral Teens 11,12; Fall Play 12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Play 11
Riste Grozovski - Building Trades 11,12
Jennifer Griffin - Basketball 9,10; Concert Choir 10,11,12; Key Club 12; Varsity Choir 9
Stuart Guernsey - Autoshop 11
Jon Gutierrez - Class Officer 9; Guidance Aide 12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Teacher Aide 12; Track 9,10,11,12
Jaclyn Dana Hac - Aide 11,12; Art Club 12; Art Club Officer 12; Drama Club 9; Football Student Manager 11,12; Key Club 12
Abby Hacker - Drama Club 11,12; FCCLA 9,10,11,12; FCCLA Officer 11; Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,12; Thespians 11,12
Christopher Hadt
Kelly Halczak - Art Club 12; Key Club 9; Teens for Christ 12; Track 10,11,12
Stephanie Lynn Hall - Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11; Future Educators of America 11; Future Educators of America President 11; HERO 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Newspaper 9,10,11; Newspaper Features Editor 9,10; Teacher Aide 9; Thespians 10,11,12
Jarrell Hamilton - Color Guard 10; Key Club 12
Damara Rochelle Hamlin - Class Officer Vice President 10,11,12; Commencement Planning Committee 12; Class Government 9,10,11,12; Color Guard 10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; French Club 9,10,11,12; JETS 11,12; Kids on the Block 10; Marching Band 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; National French Test 9,10,11,12; Peer Mediator 12; Prom Committee 11,12; Quill & Scroll 12; Spell Bowl Team 9,10,11; Spring Play 9,10; Student Government 9,10,11,12; STAND 9,10,11,12; Teens for Christ 12; Thespians 10,11,12; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Editor 12
Lawrence Hargrove
Celia J. Haro - Basketball 9,10
Beron Harris - Football 10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Rugby 11,12; Track 10,11,12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 12
J. Christopher Harris - Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 9,10; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 9,10; Marching Band 9,10
Raphael Harris
Krystal Denise Harter - Color Guard 9; Key Club 9,10; Softball 9,10
Amber Kay Hauber
Sharon L. Hawkins - Creative Writing Club 11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10; Jazz Impressions 9; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra Winds 11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 9; Spring Play 9; Super Bowl 10; Teacher Aide 12; Thespians 10,11,12; Winter Drum Line 11
Bryan Head - Autoshop 11; Debate 11

Jenny Heidler - Aide 12; Basketball Homecoming Court; Basketball Homecoming Princess; Class Officer 10; Class Government 9,10,11,12; Key Club 12; Natural Helpers 10,11,12; Newspaper 11,12; Quest 10; Quill & Scroll 11,12; Quill & Scroll Officer 11; Spell Bowl Team 10,11,12; Student Government 10,11,12; Student Government Officer 11,12; Teens for Christ 12

Jamarie Henderson - Class Government 11; Football 9,10,11,12; Quest 10; Student Government 11,12; Teens for Christ 10; Wrestling 10

Sabrina Marie Hennessy - Cancer Choir 10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12; Key Club 12; Revue 9,10,11,12; Spring Play 9,10,11,12; Thespians 11,12; Varsity Choir 9

Dominique Henry - Dance Team 9,10,11; Marching Band 9,10,11

Alex Hernandez - Drama Club 12

Gregg Hernandez

Jacob Hernandez - Autoshop 12

Michael S. Hill - Cross Country 11,12; FCCLA 10; Key Club 12; STAND 9; Teens for Christ 9,10,11,12; Track 10,11,12

Schmekia Hinton - Color Guard 10,11,12; inspirational Choir; Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Teens for Christ 11

Mark Hirjak - Building Trades 11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11

James Hobson

Trevor Jay Hodges - German Club 12; Media Fair 10

Erin Holland - Art Club 12; Marine Biology 11,12; Softball 12; Swimming 11

Tim Holley

Deanna B. Howard - Basketball Student Trainer 11,12; Dance Team 9,10; Football Student Trainer 11,12; Marching Band 9,10; Pep Band 9,10

Michael K. Howard - Aide 12

Patrick Howard

Mark Huber - Basketball Student Manager 12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 11,12; Football Student Manager 12; Key Club 12; Spring Play 11,12; Thespians 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Newspaper 9,10,11; Newspaper Features Editor 9,10; Teacher Aide 9; Thespians 10,11,12

Diana Hughes - Basketball Homecoming Court 10,11; Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Class Officer 10,11,12; Class Government 9,10,11,12; Drama Club

9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 11; Fall Play 9,10,11; Football Homecoming Court 12; Key Club 12; PNN 11,12; Prom Committee 11,12; Prom Court 11;

Revue 10,11; Spring Play 11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12; Thespians Officer 11

Megan Hulbert - Class Government 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Spanish Club 9,10; Spanish Club Officer 10

Christopher David Humes - Art Club 12; STAND 9

Jemika Hunter

Carl Hurd - Basketball 9,10,11; Basketball Captain 11; Concert Choir 9,10,11,12; Peer Mediator 11

Kathleen Marie Hyzy - Drama Club 10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 10,11,12; Kids on the Block 11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 12; Revue 12; Spring Play 10,12; STAND 12; Thespians 10,11,12; Thespians Officer 12

Henry Victor Jackowski III - Drumline 9,10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Wrestling 9,10,11; Winter Drum Line 10,11,12

Kyle Jackson - Autoshop 12

Stefanie Jackson - Drama Club 9,12; Drama Club Officer 9; inspirational Choir 10; Key Club 11; Spell Bowl Team 9; Spring Play 9; STAND 12; Swimming 9

Clifford James, Jr. - Autoshop 11,12; Basketball 9,10; Cross Country 9,10; Key Club 12; Track 9,10,11,12

TeNita Jamison

Nick Janakievski - French Club 9,10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11; Pep Band 10,11

- Nikisha Jefferson** - Commencement Planning Committee 12; Cross Country 11,12; FEA 12; Key Club 11,12; Newspaper 11; Peer Mediator 9,10,11,12; Pin Pal 9; Student Government 12; STAND 12; Teens for Christ 9,10,11,12; Track 10,11,12; Yearbook Senior Editor 12
- Corey Johnson**
Denise Johnson
Mykah Johnson - Concert Choir 10,12; French Club 9,10; Key Club 11,12; Natural Helpers 12; Prom Committee 11,12; Teens for Christ 12; Varsity Choir 9
- Parker Johnson** - Creative Writing Club 12; German Club 12; Marching Band 9,10
- Jacleen Joiner** - Concert Choir 10; Varsity Choir 9
- Paula Jones** - Autoshop 11,12; Basketball 9,10; Concert Choir 9,10; Key Club 9,10,12; Swimming 9,10; Volleyball 9,10
- Joseph Martin Jordan** - Cheerleading 11,12; Cheerleading Captain 11,12; Class Government 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Track 10,11,12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12
- Amanda Joslyn** - Special Olympics (Bowling & Gymnastics) 9,10,11,12
- Brian Jostes** - Baseball 9; Basketball 9; Bowling Team 12; Football 9; Tennis 12
- Dikah Joyner** - Aide 12; Class Government 11,12; Color Guard 9,10,11; Drama Club 11; FCCLA 9; French Club 9,10,11,12; Girls' Basketball Student Manager 10; Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11; Pep Band 9,10; Student Government 12; Student Athletic Trainer 11,12; Teens for Christ 9; Thespians 11
- Damien Scott Julkes**
Tia Karagianidis - German Club 11
- Ravinder Kaur**
James Kelly - Jazz Impact 9,10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12;
- Sarah Kennedy** - Choral Teens 11,12; Dance Team 9,10; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 12; German Club 9; German Club Officer 10,12; JETS 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Peer Mediator 12; Revue 11,12; Spring Play 11; Student Government 11,12; Student Government Officer 12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Vocal Teens 11,12
- Donavan Kepchar** - Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10; Peer Mediator 12; Pep Band 9,10; Wrestling 9
- Corey Kesler** - Autoshop 11,12; Wrestling 9,10
- Zach Kezy** - AutoShop 11
- Shannan Kimbrough** - Color Guard 10,11,12; Drama Club 11; FCCLA 9; French Club 9,11; Girls' Basketball Student Manager 10; Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,12; Student Athletic Trainer 11,12; Thespians 11
- Nakesha King** - Creative Writing Club 11; French Club 12; Natural Helpers 10; Student Government 11
- Kimberly Kish** - Class Government 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 10,11,12; Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12; National Honor Society President 12; Thespians 10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10
- Shane Klar** - Autoshop 12; Cross Country 9,10; Track 9,10
- Anthony Michael Klippen** - Student Advisory Committee 12
- John Knezevich** - Autoshop 11
- Matthew David Krysa** - Soccer 9,10,11,12; Track 9,11,12
- Paul Kurczynski** - Baseball 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12
- James Zukzinski**
- Sherly Kwell** - Bowling Team 9,10,11,12; FEA 11,12; FEA Officer 11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Tennis 10; Track 11
- Dan Kwiatkowski** - Baseball 9,10,11,12; Baseball Captain 9,10,12; Class Officer 9; Class Government 9; Football 9; Pirate Radio 9,10; PNN 9,10; Velveteens 9
- Brad Lake** - Autoshop 11,12
- Geoffrey Michael Lalic** - Baseball 9,10; Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12
- Paula Laorden** - Jazz Impressions 9; Jazz Impact 10,11; Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10,11; National Honor Society 11,12; Pep Band 9; Swimming 10,11,12; Tennis 11,12
- Donald Lee**
- Ronte Lee**
- Andrew Leicht** - Cross Country 12; Science Olympiad 10; Student Government 10; Track 10,12
- James Adrian Leonard**
- Adam Lewis** - Drum Major 11,12; Jazz Impressions 9,11,12; Jazz Impact 10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 10,11,12; Spell Bowl Team 9,10,11,12; Super Bowl 10,11,12
- Dwana Denise Lewis**
- Jerwuan Lewis**
- Joseph LeLoup**
- Jacqueline Janvier Lipski** - Art Club 12; Creative Writing Club 9,10,11,12; Creative Club Officer 12; Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10,12; Newspaper 11; Orchestra 9,10,11; Soccer 9,10,11; Spring Play 12; Track 9; Vertigo 10,11,12
- Craig Lisac** - Autoshop 11; Football 9,10
- Ashley Lofton** - French Club 12; Key Club 12; Natural Helpers 12; Newspaper 12; Newspaper Entertainment Editor 12; Quest 12; Student Government 10; STAND 12
- Danny Lopez** - Drama Club 11,12; PNN 12; Spanish Club 9,10; Swimming 10
- Mary Kate Lucas** - Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; French Club 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Prom Committee; Student Advisory Committee 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Volleyball 9; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Junior Section Editor 12
- Crystal M. Lumpkin** - French Club 11,12
- Kara Christine Lux** - Dance Team 9; Gymnastics 9,10,11,12; Gymnastics Captain 12; Key Club 12; Guidance Aide 9; SADD 12; Teacher Aide 12; Yearbook 11
- Michael A. Mable** - Drama Club 12; Fall Play 12; Marching Band 10; Pep Band 10; Quest 11,12; Spring Play 12; Thespians 12
- Demetrios Mabon**
- Temidayo Macarthy** - Body Lifting; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; Key Club 11,12; Marching Band 9,10; Track 11
- Daniel Madura** - HERO 12
- Naomi Magallan** - Art Club 12; Creative Writing Club 10,11,12; Creative Writing Club Officer 11,12; SADD 12; Vertigo 10,11,12
- Emily Ann Mandrich** - Aide 11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12; German Club 11,12; Revue 9,10,11,12; Spring Play 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Varsity Choir 9
- Steven Marcus** - Baseball 9,10,12; Basketball 9,10,11,12; Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10; Pep Band 9,10
- Gary Marek** - Football 9,10,11,12
- Joselyn Marquis**
- Gabriel Martin**
- Michaela Amanda Martin** - Drama Club 9,10; Fall Play 9,10; FCCLA 10, HERO 11, STAND 12; Tennis 10
- Yvonne Martinez** - Concert Choir 9; Football Manager 12
- Demetria Latrice Massengill** - Choral Teens 12; Concert Choir 10; Fall Play 12; FCCLA 9,10,11; FCCLA Officer 11; Key Club 12; Spring Play 11; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 11
- Eve Matczak** - Orchestra 9
- Destiny Gabrielle Mathis** - Color Guard 9; Office Aide 12; Orchestra 9,10; Quest 12; Revue 12; Teens for Christ 11
- Crystal Matson**
- Laura Matyjas** - German Club 12; Swimming 12; Tennis 12
- Courtney McCarty**
- Rebecca Ann McCarty** - Aide 9,12; SADD 9
- Heather M. McCoy**
- Desiree McDaniel** - Basketball 9,10; Softball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10
- William Benjamin McGhee** - FCCLA Officer 11,12; Teens for Christ 11,12; Thespians Officer 11,12
- Amanda McIntire**
- Wade McKinley** - Aide 12, Autoshop 12; Basketball 9,10; Building Trades 11; Football 10; PNN 9,10
- Jamie McLaughlin**
- Lauren Ann McLindon**
- Christian McMillon**
- Kevin Patrick McMullin** - Creative Writing Club 9; PNN 11,12; Vertigo 9
- Ashley McNeil** - Concert Choir 10; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12
- Key Club 12**; Revue 9,10,11,12; Spring Play 9,10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12; Varsity Choir 9
- Melissa Dawn Medanich** - Aide 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9
- Donnie J. Metlovski**
- Nick E. Miles** - Aide 12; Diving 10; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Track 9
- Mallorie Mitchell** - Color Guard 11,12; Future Educators of America 11; Family, Career & Community Leaders of America 10; Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Natural Helpers 11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Quest 11,12; STAND/WITT 12
- Jason Mizimakoski** - Autoshop 11; Quest 12
- Carl Montgomery** - Football 9
- Amanda Moor** - Natural Helpers 11
- Ricardo V. Moreno** - Autoshop 11,12; Football 9; Wrestling 9,10
- Nicole Morlos**
- Eric Morris** - Baseball 9,10,11,12; Baseball Captain 12; Football 9,10,11,12; Key Club 12; Peer Mediator 12; Prom Court 11
- Keith Murphy**, Jr. - Aide 12; Basketball 9,10,11; Class Government 11; Concert Choir 12; Drama Club 12; Key Club 12; Student Government 12; STAND 12; Track 10,11; Varsity Choir 12
- Nicole Murphy** - Choral Teens 12; Concert Choir 10; Drama Club 9; Fall Play 9; Future Educators of America 11; Spell Bowl Team 9; Velveteens 11
- Tara Murphy** - Dance Team 9,10,11,12; Dance Team Captain 10; Key Club 12; Peer Mediator 11
- Kathryn Murray**
- Vangel Mooraki** - Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 11,12
- Matt Nadolski**
- Alisha Nalls** - Basketball 9,10; Orchestra 11,12; Volleyball 9
- Arlinda Christina Nava-McCain** - Cross Country Student Manager 11,12; Key Club 12; STAND 9,10,11,12; Tennis 10
- Claudia Esterlene Nava-McCain** - Cross Country 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Spanish Club 9; STAND 9,10,11,12; Track 10,12
- Robert Ryan Nava** - Art Club 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; Track 11
- Monique Lisette Navarro** - Basketball 9; Class Officer 11,12; Class Government 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11; Quill & Scroll 12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Weightlifting Competition 11,12; WMHS 12; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Sports Editor 12
- Taryn Talisha Michelle Neal** - Basketball 9; Color Guard 10,11,12; Key Club 12; Marching Band 12

- 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 11; Tennis 9; Volleyball 9
- V. Renee Neanover** - Creative Writing Club 11,12; Decathlon Team 11,12; Drama Club 9,11; FEA 12; Orchestra 12; Spanish Club 9,10,11; Spell Bowl Team 12; Super Bowl 9,11,12; Teens for Christ 11; Tennis 9
- Brian P. Nienhaus** - Autoshop 11,12; Bowling Team 10,11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Track 9,10,11,12
- Eric Nolan** - Soccer 9,10,11,12; Track 9,11,12
- Jason Nyongani**
- Kathryn O'Brien**
- Jason M. O'Hearn** - Autoshop 12; Marching Band 9,10; Pep Band 9,10
- Kelly O'Keefe**
- Odunayo Obajuluwa** - Soccer 12
- Kristina Ojleska** - Key Club 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Spanish Club 11,12; STAND 11,12
- Noyan Olcum** - Autoshop 12; Football 9,10,11,12; Track 11,12; Wrestling 10,11,12
- Laura Orozco** - Key Club 12; Quest 12
- Jaimie George Ortiz** - Choral Teens 10,11,12; Concert Choir 9; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12; Kids in the Block 12; Revue 10,11,12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Play 9,10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12; Vocal Teens 11,12
- Daniel Lee Padberg, Jr.** - Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Soccer 10,11,12
- Tyronne Page**
- Jesus Palomo, Jr.** - Building Trades
- Angela Papamihalakis** - Key Club 9
- Monica Parker** - Marching Band 9,10,11; Natural Helpers 9; Peer Mediator 10; Pep Band 9,10,11; Pin Pal 10; Pirate Radio 10,11; Student Advisory Committee 9,10,11,12; Teacher Aide 11,12; Teens for Christ 10,11; Track 11
- Felicia Parks** - Choral Teens 11,12; Dance Team 9,10,11; Drama Club 12; Fall Play 12; French Club 10,11,12; Peer Mediator 12; Revue 12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Play 12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Winter Drumline 11
- Nisha Patel** - Aide 9; Key Club 12; Spanish Club 12; STAND 12
- Nicole Patterson** - Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Natural Helpers 11; Peer Mediator 11; Pep Band 9; Quest 11; Quest Officer 11
- Megan Ann Pawl**
- Shardai Pearson**
- Jessica Peete** - Basketball 9,10,11
- Cole Perkins** - Girls' Tennis Student Manager 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Newspaper 10,11; Newspaper Entertainment and Sports Editor 10,11; PNN 12; Quill & Scroll 10,11,12; Student Government 11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 11
- Christina Peschke** - Aide 12; Drama Club 11; French Club 11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Peer Mediator 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9,10; Winter Drum Line 11
- Patrick J. Petrovich** - Art Club 12; Creative Writing Club 11,12; Orchestra 9,10; Spanish Club 10
- Pauline Petruch** - Aide 12; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Track 9,10,11,12
- Tommy Phifer**
- Heather Phillippe** - Athletic Office Aide 12; Choral Teens 12; Concert Choir 10; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12; French Club 9,10; Revue 9,10,11,12; Show Choir 12; Soccer 10; Spring Play 9,10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12; Thespians Office 12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 11; Vocal Teens 12
- Michele Phillips** - Thespians 11,12
- Chad Pierce**
- Jennifer Ponce**
- Ebony Pope** - Basketball 9,10,11; Marching Band 9;
- Softball** 9,10
- Jill Porter** - Cheerleading 9,10,11,12
- Katrina Portis**
- Takisha Portis**
- Aaron Powell** - Autoshop 11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; HERO 12; PNN 11; Track 10,11; Wrestling 9,12
- Rachel A. Powers**
- Kate Prentoski**
- Timothy Price**
- Casady Suzanne Pruitt** - Boys' Tennis Student Manager 9,10,11,12; French Club 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Peer Mediator 11,12; Quill & Scroll 12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Academics Editor 12
- Anayeli Santos**
- Tito Savage** - Marching Band 9,10,11; Pep Band 9,10,11
- Theresa Schubert** - Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Class Government 12; French Club 10,11,12; French Club Officer 12; National Honor Society 11,12; National French Test 9,10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Student Government 12
- Zachary Scott**
- Dyann Marie Segvich** - Boys' Soccer Student Manager 12; Class Government 11,12; JETS 11; National Honor Society 11,12; National Spanish Test 9; Newspaper 12; Quill & Scroll 12; Student Government 10,11,12; Teacher Aide 11; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Academics Editor 12
- Patrice Kaye Selmon** - Color Guard 9,10,11; FCCLA 9,10; French Club 9; Key Club 11; Marching Band 9,10,11; Pep Band 9,10
- Kimberly Shapley** - Basketball 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Quill & Scroll 11,12; Softball 9; Student Government 11; Teacher Aide 12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Yearbook 11,12; Yearbook Sports Editor 11
- Dan Sierra**
- Vangel Sikoski**
- Amanda Elizabeth Simpson** - Aide 11,12; Dance Team 9; Football Student Trainer 11,12; Key Club 12; Softball Student Manager 11,12
- Michael Simpson**
- Sean Simpson** - Football 9,10,11,12; Marine Biology 10; PNN 9,10,11; Student Government 11
- Justin Singer** - Art Club 9
- Dale William Skalba**
- Jennifer Slikva** - Choral Teens 11; Fall Play 11,12; Football Student Trainer 9,10,11,12; Key Club 11,12; Spring Play 11,12; Swimming 9,10,11; Velveteens 10; Vocal Teens 12
- Darius Smith** - Marching Band 9,10; Track 10
- Jessie Smith**
- Jonathan Smith**
- Kasee Chevon Smith** - Class Government 12; Color Guard 10,11,12; Football Homecoming Court 9; German Club 12; Key Club 12; Prom Committee 12; Student Government 12
- Kaye Denning Smith** - Color Guard 9,10,11,12; Color Guard Captain 11,12; FEA 11; FCCLA 10; Inspirational Choir 9,10; Key Club 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 10,11,12; Revue 12; STAND 12; Winter Drum Line 10
- Matthew Smith** - Football 9; Wrestling 9
- Tiffany A. Smith** - Basketball 9,10,12; Softball 9,10,11,12
- Sean Sohacki**
- Laura R. Sopko** - Basketball 9; Choral Teens 11,12; Fall Musical 12; French Club 12; Key Club 11,12; Key Club Officer 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Revue 12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 12; Spring Musical 11; Student Government 12; Track 10; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Vocal Teens 12
- Aleksander Sotiroski** - Guidance Office Aide 12; Soccer 12
- David Spaliaras** - Concert Choir 9,10; Football 9,10,11,12
- Dane M. Spann**
- Nicole R. Sparger** - Football Homecoming Court 12;

- German Club 9,10; Gymnastics 10,12; Gymnastics Captain 12; Gymnastics Student Manager 11; Key Club 10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; STAND 11,12; STAND President 11,12; Tennis 9
- Lindsay Sperling** - Drama Club 11; Key Club 12; Make A Wish Foundation 10; Pin Pal 11; SADD 11,12; SADD Officer 12; Thespians 11; Volleyball 9,10
- Kenny Stanzione** - Autoshop 11,12
- Fontaine Stegall** - Basketball Homecoming Princess 11; Cheerleading 9; Choral Teens 12; Concert Choir 10; Dance Team 10,11; Football Homecoming Queen 12; Key Club 12; Marching Band 10,11; National Honor Society 11,12; Spanish Club 9; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 11
- Rebecca M. Stephen** - Concert Band 9,10,11; German Club 10,11,12; German Club Officer 12; Jazz Impressions 9,10,11; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 12
- Lora E. Sterley** - Aide 12; German Club 9,10; Natural Helpers 10; Peer Mediator 12; Quest 10
- Adam Stetson** - SADD 9; Swimming 10,11,12
- Tony Stoiko** - Golf 9,10,11,12; JETS 12; Swimming 10,11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 11,12
- Brittney Danielle Stoica** - Color Guard 9,10,11,12; Key Club 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12
- Matt Stone** - PNN 10,11
- Anthony Stout**
- Brandon Strange**
- Aimee Lynn Street** - Concert Choir 9,10,11; Drama Club 9,11,12; Fall Play 9,11,12; Show Choir 12; Spring Play 11,12' Thespians 12; Velveteens 12
- Eric Steele** - Autoshop 10; HERO 12; Metals 9,10,11,12
- Lauren Marie Strom** - Class Government 12; Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11,12; Key Club 12; Revue 10,11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Spring Play 10,11,12; Thespians 11,12; Yearbook 11,12; Yearbook Performing Arts Editor 12
- Samantha Sullivan** - Aide 12; Bowling Team 9,10,11; Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11,12; FEA 9,10,11,12; HERO 12; Jazz Impact 10; Marching Band 9,10,11, National Honor Society 11,12; Peer Mediator 10; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Spring Play 10,11,12; Thespians 10,11,12
- Steven Sunimurast** - Aide 11,12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 11,12; Revue 12; Sound & Lighting Engineer; Spring Play 12
- Jamie L. Sweeney** - Basketball Homecoming Princess 10,11; Class Government 12; Cross Country 11,12; Football Competition Court 12; Key Club 11,12; Marine Biology 11; National Honor Society 11,12; Prom Court 11; Track 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10
- Kelly Schwickard** - Aide 11; Marching Band 9,10,11; Peer Mediator 9,10; Pep Band 9,10; Soccer 10,11
- Meagan Sylva** - Natural Helpers 10; Varsity Choir 9
- Shannon E. Szala**
- Kathleen Kelley Sztz** - Commencement Planning Committee 12; Class Government 11,12; Choral Teens 11,12; Fall Play 12; Football Homecoming Court 12; French Club 10,11,12; French Club Officer 12; JETS 11; National Honor Society 11,12; National Honor Society Secretary 12; National French Test 10,11,12; Prom Committee 11; Revue 11,12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Play 11; Student Government 11,12; Tennis 9,10,12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Vocal Teens 11,12
- Katlie R. Tanis** - Concert Choir 9; Gymnastics 9,10,11,12
- Ricky Tants** - Marching Band 9,10,11; National Honor Society 11,12; Newspaper 9,10; Pep Band 9,10
- Anthony Taylor**
- Ashly D. Taylor** - Tennis 10
- Adam Tegtmann** - Baseball 9,10,12; Football 9,10,11,12
- Paul Terrebonne**
- Chris TerDoest** - Autoshop 11; Basketball 12; Environmental Club 1; Environmental Club Officer 11; Football 11; Key Club 11,12
- Giovani Thomas** - HERO 12; Key Club 11,12
- Sarah Thomas** - Tennis 10
- Dione Thor**
- Jasmine Thornton** - Debate 10; Drama Club 9,10; Natural Helpers 11; Revue 12
- Jenna Kathleen Throw** - Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Marching Band Section Leader 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9
- Hank Tolhuizen** - Creative Writing Club 12; Dance Team 9,10; German Club 12
- Lee Marvin Torrence** - Jazz Impressions 9,10; Jazz Impact 11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 9; STAND 12
- Vincent Torres** - Autoshop 11; Baseball 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9,10; Football 9; Kids on the Block 9,10,11,12; Tennis 12; Winter Drum Line 11; Yearbook 12
- Christopher Brian Trapanie** - Golf 9,10,11,12
- Julie Ann Trimble** - Cheerleading 9,10; Choral Teens 11,12; Diving 10,11,12; Diving Captain 12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 11,12; French Club 9,10,11; Show Choir 11,12; Softball 9; Spring Play 11,12; Swimming 10,11,12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Vocal Teens 12
- Andy Troupos**
- Shaina Tucker** - Art Club 10; Concert Choir 10,11,12; FCCLA 9,10,11,12; French Club 9; Key Club 12; Revue 12; Varsity Choir 9
- Candace A. Turner**
- Ryan N. Turner** - Key Club 12
- Sarah Turner**
- Christine Uzelac** - Varsity Choir 9
- Kyle Vafadis**
- Arnie Valdez** - Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Student Government 12; Track 11,12
- Sara D. Valdez** - Jazz Impact 10; Key Club 11,12; Key Club Officer 12; Kids on the Block 10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10; National Honor Society 11,12; Natural Helpers 10; Pep Band 9,10; Spell Bowl Team 9
- Jeton Valentini**
- Vincent Vallo**
- Christopher Vargas** - Football 9
- Laura A. Vaughn** - Marching Band 9,10; Pep Band 10; Class Government 11; Drama Club 9; Fall Play 9; PNN 11; STAND 11; Tennis 10,11,12; Tennis Captain 11
- John Vazanellis** - Soccer 10,11; Tennis 9
- Adriana B. Vega** - Art Club 9,10; Soccer 9; Softball 9
- Jonathon A. Vergin** - Decathlon Team 10,11; HERO 12; Marching Band 9,11; Pep Band 9,10,11
- Anthony Wachholz**
- Michael Weddley** - Swimming 9,10,11,12
- Brandon Kiel Waldrop** - Choral Teens 10,11,12; Concert Choir 9; Fall Play 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Revue 12; Show Choir 10,11,12; Spring Play 11; Vocal Teens 10,11,12
- Cheri Walls**
- Nick Walter** - Baseball 9,10,11,12; Marching Band 9
- Lindsay Marie Warus** - Quill & Scroll 12; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Juniors Editor 12
- Shawn Washington**
- Warichka Lynn Watthanapha** - Key Club 11,12; National Honor Society 11,12; Spanish Club 12; STAND 11,12; STAND Officer 12
- Rodney Waxton**
- Joshua Werth**
- Chante Wesby**
- Martell White**
- Jessica Michelle Wieneke** - Aide 10; Dance Team 9,10,11,12; Dance Team Captain 12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Peer Mediator 12; Pep Band 10; Quiz Bowl Team 12; Winter Drum Line 11
- Brittany Nicole Williams** - Gymnastics 9; National Honor Society 11,12; Quill & Scroll 12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 11,12; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Freshmen Editor 12
- Bryan Williams**
- Carlette Williams**
- Chautese Williams**
- Dontreal Williams** - Prom Court 11; Revue 12; Yearbook 10
- Erika Williams** - Key Club 12
- Guinetta Williams** - Aide 10; Key Club 12; Revue 12
- Melanie Williams** - Natural Helpers 12; Revue 12; Track Captain 12
- Tera Williams**
- Lindsey Wills** - Concert Choir 10,11; German Club 11,12; Key Club 12; Natural Helpers 10,12; Revue 12; STAND 11; Varsity Choir 9
- Davriana Wilson** - Concert Choir 12
- Brittany RyAnne Willgen** - Concert Choir 10,11; Drama Club 9,10; Key Club 9; Varsity Choir 9; Volleyball 9
- Clint Wimmer** - Autoshop 12; Football 9,10; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 12
- Elexas Me'Lon Wise** - Choral Teens 12; Color Guard 11; Concert Choir 10; Fall Play 12; Varsity Choir 9
- Kara Nicole Wood** - Drama Club 10,11,12; Football Student Manager 10; Key Club 11,12
- Brieanne Patrice Woods** - Art Club 9; FCCLA 9,10,11; Key Club 12
- Candice Woods** - Cross Country 12; Drama Club 11; Key Club 11,12; Marching Band 9,10; Pep Band 9,10; Student Government 11; Track 9,10,11,12
- John Woods, Jr.** - Class Government 12; Marching Band 9,10; Pep Band 9; Student Government 12; Track 9
- Brad Woodward** - Baseball 12; Football 9,10,11; Wrestling 9,10,11,12
- Chardaa Wright**
- Jesse York** - Autoshop 11; Choral Teens 11,12; Concert Choir 9,10; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Play 11
- Louis Zamora** - HERO 12; Marine Biology 10; Natural Helpers 10,11; Student Government 9,10
- Brian Zelisko** - Autoshop 12; Marching Band 9,10; Pep Band 9,10
- Jessica Zimmerman** - Fellowship of Christian Athletes 9,10,11,12; German Club 9,10,11; National Honor Society 11,12; Boys' Tennis Student Manager 9,10; Teens for Christ 9,10,11,12; Tennis 9
- Ryan Zurek** - Golf 9,10,11,12; Golf Captain 12; National Honor Society 11,12; Quill & Scroll 12; Yearbook 12; Yearbook Advertising & Marketing Editor 12

Senior Choice Awards

Most Popular

Gabrielle Gabriel
Gabe McDonald



Most Intelligent

Karmen Hartman
Jordan Flande

Best Dressed

Kristina Damjanoska
Brandon Waldrop



Best Body

Vanessa Rodriguez
Jared Byczko



Most Athletic

Kim Shapley
Paul Kurczynski

Class Clown

Tiffany Smith

Ryan Nava



Best Personality

Lindsey Gabriel

Igor Ristevski

Cole Perkins

Eric Nolan



Most Actively Involved

Diana Hughes

David Rooda

Best Hair

Everybody Shaggy

High School Shaggy



Best Dancer

Troy Johnson

High School Shaggy

Nearest Smile
Julie Franklin
Arianna Costa



Cutest Couple
Baleesha Johnson
Chris Savage

Most Talkative
Tony Stofko
Chris Trapane
Michele Phillips (Not Pictured)



Best Car
Lindsey Gabriel
Enrique Balerini



Most Musical
Laura Sopko
Brandon Waldrop

Senior Choice Awards

Most Spirited

Diana Hughes

Paul Best

Most Likely to
Succeed

Damara Hamlin
Joshua Diehl



Best Actor/Actress

Kathleen Hyzy
Caleb Bateman

Worst Eyes

Tina Swanson

- Jennifer Grotto (Not Pictured)

Christopher Adams



Aleks
Sotiroski
and Igor
Ristevski



Mrs. Margaret Stallings
and Dr. Mark Spiering



CLASS
OF
2003

Joseph
Frasca



Senior Breakfast

Dominique Henry, Jessica Wieneke, Laura Sterley, Lauren
McLindon and Nicole Demeuze



Kate Prentoski, Deanna



Kathleen Szol and Cassidy Pruitt

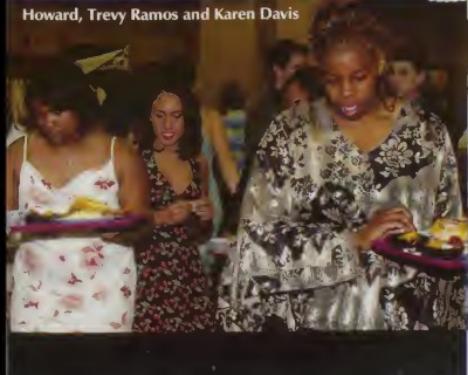
Desiree
McDaniel,
Donnie
Metlovski
and Mrs.
Debbie
Klipfel



Jasmine Thornton, Tashera Perle, Raikesha Ross, Shana
Tucker, Davriana Wilson, Gloria Clanton, Rayna Turner, Tri-
Congress, Destiny Mathis and Demetria Mayhill



Howard, Trevy Ramos and Karen Davis



Kevin Dwyer and
David Spaliarasi



Joseph
Frasca

Trojan Congress



Brandon Waldrop

Laura Sopko, Kathleen Szot and
Jennifer Slivka

Deanna
Howard

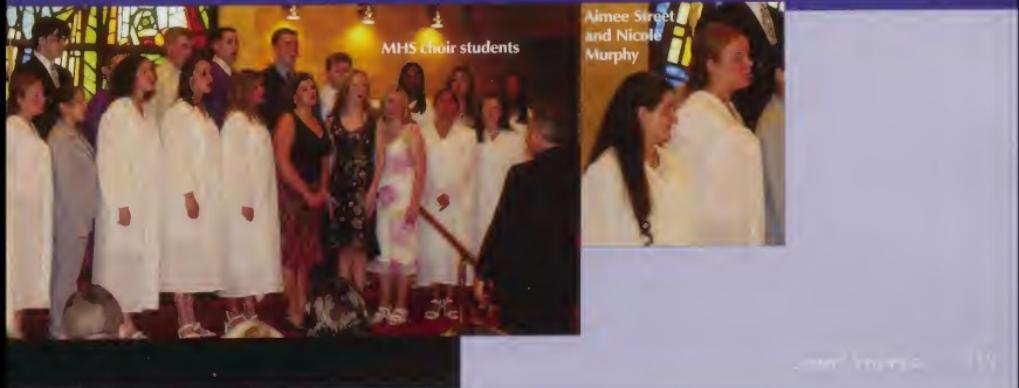
Baccalaureate



Anthony Klippe, Joseph Frasca and
Diana Hughes

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Merrillville, IN





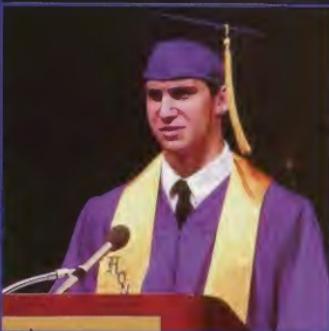
Class Motto

"I may not have gone where
I intended to go, but I think
I have ended up where
I intended to be."

Nikisha Jefferson and Deniel Dean

Principal Dr. Mark Sperling congratulates Jennifer Duggins as she walks the stage.

Chris Barbauld follows the Senior Class President as a guest speaker using references to Shakespeare as well as popular lyrics.



Graduation

Class valedictorians: Joshua Diehl, Damara Hamlin, Sarah Kennedy, Monique Navarro, Kate Santeramo, Kimberly Shapley, Kathleen Szot and Jessica Zimmerman



Senior David Rooda presents the class gift to School Board President Mr. Tom Bainbridge.

At promptly 7 p.m., the class processed into the auditorium. Members of the Senior Class, 455 strong, walked across the stage for their diploma cover.

Guest speaker Mr. Don Baron, a teacher at Merrillville High School who also plays in his own band, writes his own music and touches on comedy, composed a song entitled "Graduation Day" and dedicated it to the Class of 2003. The song completed his comedic monologue after the valedictorians spoke.



Class President Diana Hughes addresses the class after Dr. Sperling opened the ceremony.

Christina Garza

**Class President Diana Hughes
addresses the class after Dr. Sperling
opened the ceremony.**

SENIORS



Jaime Sweeney

*Love Always,
Mom and Nicole*

*Congratulations, Porkchop!
We are very proud of you!*



Dale Skalba

Congratulations, Dale!

Great Job!



*Love, Mom, Dad,
Nick, Pepper & Chew Chew*



DESTINY GABRIELLE MATHIS



ANYWAY

*If you are Successful
You will win some false friends
and some true enemies.
Succeed ANYWAY!!*

*Give the world the Best you have,
And it may never be enough;
Give the Best you've got ANYWAY!!*

*You see, in the final analysis,
It is between YOU and GOD,
It was never between you and them
ANYWAY!!*

CONGRATULATIONS!! With love, MOM & DAD

Domonique Garibay



Congratulations,
Domonique!!!
We are very
proud of you!
Love,
Mom & Dad



Vince Torres



From a perfect son
To an
invincible man

We love you
Dad, Mom
& Chae

Mike Berta



Congratulations, Meij!
Your caring
and hard work will help
you make a difference.
We are so proud of you!
Love,
Mom, Dad,
Alexis & Kristina

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First Punisher, then Pirate,
now Jaguar.
The tradition goes on.

Good Luck at IUPUI.
Love,
Mom, Dad and Aaron



Jared Byczko



Julie,
We are so
proud of you.
Reach for the
stars and may
all your dreams
come true.

Love, Mom and Dad
Julie Trimble



Brandon Waldrop



Congratulations, Brandon!
We are so proud of you!
Love,
Dad and Mom



Joey Frasca

Congratulations, Joey!
Thanks for all
of the great memories.
We are so proud of you!
May all of your dreams
come true.
Love,
Mom, Dad and Megan



Dave Rooda



We are so proud of all you have
accomplished and know there is
much more to come.
Love, Mom and Dad



Lee Marvin Torrence Jr.

We love you, Marvin. We are so proud of you.
Mom & Dad



Congratulations, Sarah!
You've always shown us
that you can accomplish
your goals. Keep on
working toward your dreams
and you will succeed!
We're so proud of you!
We love you always!
Mom, Dad & Laura



Sarah Kennedy

We've saved the best for last and we are so proud!
Congratulations, Kate. Valedictorian 2003!



Love, Mom & Dad '69, Amy '90, Dave '92, Joel '93, Jaime '96,
Jacob '98, Justin '00



Kate Santeramo



Joi-Lyn
Eller

Congratulations
We are very proud of all your
accomplishments. Always put God first.
Love, Auntie Jo, Uncle Doc, Michael,
Courtney, Brian, Nikki, Roy, Roy
Alexander, Dominique and Brian Keneer

We are so
proud of
you,
Lis!



Emily Rund

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Curt,
Grace &
Brittany



Paul
Best

Congratulations &
God Bless You, Paul!
Love, Grandma



Becky Stephen

We are very proud of you!
Congratulations!
Mom, Dad & Scott



Congratulations, Tara

May the paths
you choose
to take in life lead
you to fulfillment
and happiness!
Love, Mom &
Dad



Tara Murphy



Nikisha Jefferson

Congratulations,
Nikisha!

We are so proud of you and love you
for being you.

"A strong and independent
black, young woman"

Christine, You Have Given Me Two of the Proudest Days of My Life.



July 7, 1985 and June 9, 2003

Believe that every day is a new beginning.
Trust in yourself, and believe that wonderful
surprises are just waiting to happen.

Believe that all of your goals, hopes and dreams
are within your reach & that your talent and
determination will take you there.

If You Believe It, You Can Achieve It!
Good Luck, Christine



Christine Uzelac

With Love and Congratulations, Dad & Denise

Way to go, Tunnie!
All of your hard work finally paid off.

We're so very proud of you.
Good luck
in all your upcoming endeavors.



Brad Dow



Many hugs & kisses
Luv,
Mom, Dad and Sis

Congratulations

Sara Diana Valdez

"Proud to be 2003"



*Lots of Love,
Mom, Dad and Marisa*



To my daughter, Nicole (Peanut),

Believe in your heart that any dream can come true, for that's how I felt the day I had you.
Love, Mom



J. Christopher Harris



Our "pride and joy"

Thanks for all the great memories. Good luck at UK - Go Wildcats!
Love, Mommy, Daddy, Cicely, Quinton, G-Mommy, Grandaddy, Grandma & Paw-Paw



You are one awesome
individual!

Always believe in yourself.
We love you, Kare Bear.
Mom, Dad, Neil, Danielle and Alyssa



Kara Lux

Congratulations, Lindsey, on everything that you've done.

It's needless to say that we are so proud.

We wish you all the best for a successful future,
and good luck in everything you do in the coming years.

Love always,

Mom & Dad, Chris, Ken & Jenny



Congratulations, Monique

Your commitment, determination and hard work
have brought you to where you are today and
will get you to where you want to go.

We are very proud of you!

With Love,

Dad, Mom & Eric





Christine Aloia

We're proud of you,
Christine!
May all your dreams
come true.
Best wishes
for a successful future.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Matt & Erica



Kathleen Szot

Congratulations, Kathleen
Your hard work
has paid off.
We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad & Tom



Casady Suzanne Pruitt



Look at our little girl
all grown up.
Good Luck!
We love you!

Mommy, Barry, Katelyn,
Grandma Neen & Grandpa Jim





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Trevy Ana, you are a bright light
and a joy in our lives.
Love & Bunny Hugs,
Mom & Dad



Trevy
Ramos



Shawna Breitenstein

Shawna,
Congratulations!

We love you and
we are very proud
of you!

Love,
Dad, Mom & Rich



Lauren Marie



Lauren Strom

You are the star that shines the brightest!
Congratulations! We love you!
Dad, Mom, Brad, Kyle, Stevie Ray & Sven



Congratulations, Kevin & Jenny



Kevin Farmer



Jennifer Duggins



We are proud of all your accomplishments!
Love, Mom, Dad, Jerry, Brandi and Joey Duggins
Mom, Raymond, Maegin and Darin Farmer



Damara Rochelle

Every good and perfect gift is from above. . .



Damara Rochelle Hamlin



*Continue to let your light shine
as you abound on your future journey. We are so proud of you!
Love, Dad, Mom, Britt and Dee Dee*



Lindsay Warus

*There are many things in life that
will capture your eye, but very few
will capture your heart.*

*These are the ones to pursue.
These are the ones worth keeping.*

Lindsay,

We are so proud of you!

Love,

*Mom and Dad,
Matthew and Jonathan*



Congratulations, Brittany!

*You have made us
so proud as parents.*

*You have worked
so hard. Good luck
in all that you do.
We know nothing
will hold you back.*

Love,

Mom, Dad, Christopher & Eric



Brittany Williams



*Emily Graun,
You were the answer to our prayers
And our dream come true.
We love you with all our hearts.
And we're so PROUD of you!*

Congratulations!

*And may all your dreams come true!
Mom and Dad*



Jaime Ortiz

Congratulations, Jaime G!

Reach for the
stars! May all
your dreams
come true!

Love,
Mom, Dad
& Josh



We are
so proud of you!



Congratulations to one
of the finest young ladies.

Joi-Lyn Eller
Mr. & Mrs. Therphilus Sandidge



Jeanette
Fabian

Congratulations, Jeanette!
You finally made it! Just remember,
you only live once, so take every opportunity
life offers you!!! Don't settle!
Love, Mom & Dad



Justin Singer



We're proud
of what you've accomplished
and will accomplish.

Love,
Mom &
Dad

Congratulations, Noyan!

We are very
proud of you.

Love,
Mom & Dad



Noyan Olcum

Congratulations, Jenna!

You've
accomplished
everything you set
out to do and have
been a total success.
Please continue as
you have and you
will succeed in all
your future
endeavors as well.



Jenna Throw

Love & Good Luck,
Mom, Dad & Richard



Katie Kate - Congratulations!
Enjoy what life has in store!
We love you
Mom & Dad!!



Tim Balko

Congratulations, Tim!



We are so proud
of you!
Love, Mom, Dad,
Katie & Karen



Congratulations,
Geoff
Where did the time go!

Words can't describe
how proud we are of you.
You're awesome!
Love,
Mom & Dad



Ryan Stephen Zurek



Congratulations on all of your accomplishments...

We are all excited for you as you have the power to make your dreams come true...

And, we will always be here for you as we believe in you and love you very much...

Love always, Mom, Dad & Heather



I'll never forget 2002 summer together. I miss you much. You'll be remembered always. Love Karie O I'll never forget you! All the good times, especially at work. You will always be remembered and loved. **Laura** I really miss you girl. I will always remember all of the fun times that we had and all the fun times we went to the mall and you bought me Gloria jeans. You should be here, but I know you can't. I love you! **Jessica Wiencke** Your attitude was the greatest. Brian Neinhuis

We went through a lot and I really miss you. Although I can't see it, your smile still lights my day. You are always with me! Love you! **Kevin P. McMullan** Your time here was short. All of your friends love you and miss you. I wish I had the chance to tell you what a wonderful person you were. You deserved a better place now. Love you. **Terry** You're a great person and you're so missed. The memory of your smile will live on forever. **Nicole Murphy**

Your talents made you a shining star in heaven. **Beverly Soever** Thank you for all the laughs and all the rides home. **Lenny** needed a great friend like you, and I know I'll never forget you. **Tommy Slivka** Hi friend. I wish you could still be here with us. This whole senior thing isn't the same without you. I'm so happy I got to be a part of your life in the time you were here. I miss all the laughs in French and on half-days. Love you. **Felicia** I remember the blue wig and silver eyelids! **Mr. Feeney**



Melissa Marie Watson

Once in a while, a special friend comes into your life and touches you in a wonderful way. Your personalities just seem to click, and it seems as though your friendship has existed for years. Immediately there is a sense of trust and sincerity, and a feeling of closeness develops instantly. It's refreshing not to have the usual barriers to overcome, and right away, you know that you have found a friend. Even after parting, this person leaves such an impression that from time to time, for no reason, you think of that friend and it makes you happy. I'm really lucky because somebody special came into my life and touched me in that magical way. And it just so happens that somebody is you. Thanks for the magic! I love and will miss you, Melissa.

Love always,
Jenny Slivka



Well, the short time that you were here, you made people laugh. You were a cool person. You are missed by many. **Demetria Massengill** I really miss the times we shared, especially the drawings on my books! **Paul Best** Watch over me when I get into the service. We will always remember the humor that you brought to the group. **Brendan M** I remember when you first moved here and when I started calling you "Smart". Love, Matt

I will never forget your bright smile. You are so missed! **Christine Albia** You have been such a sweet-heated person. You have touched my life and so many others. Thank you for being you. **Lovell Kathleen Sotz** Your smile would always make my day. I'll truly miss that! **Mr. Luckey** The fun times at the beach. You're a wonderful person. Miss ya! **Mandy** I'll never forget your great attitude. It was great knowing you, especially in French class. **Igor Ristevski**

1985-2002



Paid for by the friends of Melissa Watson

Melissa,
It was a late and darkened night
The car went off the road,
into a cornfield it did go
Well, this is what I was told
Instantly, it took her life
She felt no pain at all,
Up to heaven went her soul
But she's still with me when I call.
She was so young and beautiful
And had so much more living to do.
But now she has her angel wings
And all her suffering is through.
She was one of my dearest friends
And each day I miss her more,
But I know God needs her there with him
Tho' when I think of her my heart gets sore.
She always used to make me smile
And she'd put a smile on my face,
And when I'd cry she'd be right there
On her shoulder was my place,
When she passed my world came down
So fast, so swift, so soon,
And now I cannot see her face
But I can talk to her through the moon.
Today, I will remember her
And she'll be in my heart,
Because the memories of Melissa
Will remain in that special part.
So when I close my eyes at night

Up to the Lord I pray,
I tell Missy that I love her
And I'll think of her every day.
She will be with me always
Not her body, but her soul,
And I will see her someday too
When it's time to pay my toll,
But until then, I'll pray each day

And every starry night,
I won't forget the memories
Or the times that were so right.
I will always remember Missy
And the smile on her face.
The joy she brought into my life
And how she's won her endless race.

With miss you, Melissa.
With Love, Stephanie Bigelow

I love you so much.
You have touched my life in many ways, and I love you very much.
Missy, I miss your smile. I will never forget you. You're a great friend. Love, Tiffany

I am really glad
that you were all
great friend and we all
miss you. Nayan

I miss you so much.
Thank you for being
in my life. I feel really
blessed to have known
you. Love, Laura
Sokpo

To Billy McBride

We have been boyz since middle school and you know I can never forget you. We have established many memories, from basketball to even hanging outside of school. We have created a book of memories. Even though you are kind of lonely up there in heaven, just remember we are lonely down here without you. We miss you and want to let you know that when we see each other, we will have a lot to talk about.

Much luv,
LeDaniel

To a friend,
Billy McBride

We have known each other for so long and I could never forget all those memories that we have together. You were truly a good friend. When I was down, you kept me laughing, and when things were not going so well, you gave me a reason to smile. I really appreciate that and will never forget that. I miss you so much and am so honored to have known you.

Ya gurl,
Michelle Phillips

Billy McBride

To my boy,
Billy McBride

Your personality is what made you and could never be forgotten. We grew up together and created so many memories. I could never overlook the past. You are so special because your time with us left a shine in our lives. I will always miss you and will always love you.

Luv,
Destiny Mathis

To Billy

This is your girl, Deniel, just letting you know that in my senior year, I missed you and your loving personality. I sometimes reminisce about the fun times we shared in Ms. Lewandowski's and Mrs. Rice's class (middle school). I will never forget your good heart and the life you brought to all the parties. I love you and I will be taking you in my heart as I walk across the stage.

Luv you,
Deniel Dean

To my boy,
Billy McBride

I'm never going to forget you. We hooped together, we played football together, and we chilled together. You were an inspiration in my life and you still are. You showed me how to be strong. You were my "boy" and my "Road dog." Even though death may have taken you from us, life still owns you! We all know you would've been someone great! We're always going to miss you, your words and your crazy sense of humor! I know you're going to be watching over us at graduation as we walk across the stage. We love you and we truly miss you.

Always remember, Billy McBride

Never forget, February 28, 2000 — Freshman Year.

Love,
Chris Harris



1985-2000

Life is Real

His name tells how he is real and cool. The truth is growing up with nothing, later on in life bring something. Hearing bullets passing, can't go to sleep because of fasting. No food on the table, can't buy food because nobody's able, you look at the past and laugh.

Everyone learned bread and milk is all that you had. Older people drinking rum, but your best friend is slum. Never dumb but sleep, his parents wonder when they are going to eat. You move on in life. Today, all you can think of is you are going to die, never a lie but watch elders cry. Never can be shy but bold. Wondering why this story was told. So let the revealing message unfold. The person who is there always is my mama, but always encouraging, never finding faults and drama. So your bones can be broke, but knowledge is all I wrote.

by Billy McBride

Billy McBride

I've known Billy ever since Harrison Middle School and we have been through so much together. From math class in the 8th grade to English freshman year. There have been many memories established and I will never forget them. It is really hard to believe that Billy won't be walking across the stage with us, but I know for sure that his many memories will travel with us wherever we go in the future. I know that Billy will never be forgotten. His laughs and silly ways will stay with us through our many accomplishments and different directions. I will never forget you. From the Class of 2003, you will always be a part of our class.

Love,

Nikisha Jefferson

*Our baby is
graduating, and
we're so proud
of you. We love
you with all
of our hearts.
Love always,
Mommy, Daddy,
and Keisha*



Joi-Lyn Eller



Shawna Breitenstein

A black and white portrait of a young woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark, patterned top, smiling.

*Congratulations!
We love you!
Love, Aunt Neice, Keith,
Kyle & Kristen*

*Congratulations! We are so very proud of you,
Jennifer. Keep up the great work.*



Jennifer Reid

*Love,
Mommie &
Wendell*


A black and white photograph of a baby sitting in a white graduation gown with a tassel, looking towards the camera.

Joi-Lyn Eller



*Congratulations
to our first-born
granddaughter!
We love you very
much! Love,
Grandmommy &
Granddaddy*

Nick Mileos

A black and white portrait of a man with short hair, wearing a white tank top with a graphic design, sitting and looking at the camera.

*Congratulations!
Best of luck
with your future plans!
Love, Mom & Dad*



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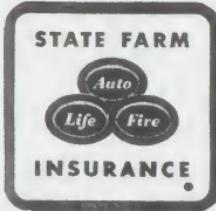
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Class of 2003

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Rose Ann Antich**
**Democrat
Assistant Minority Caucus Chair**



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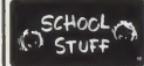


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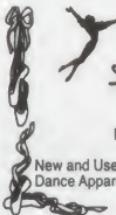
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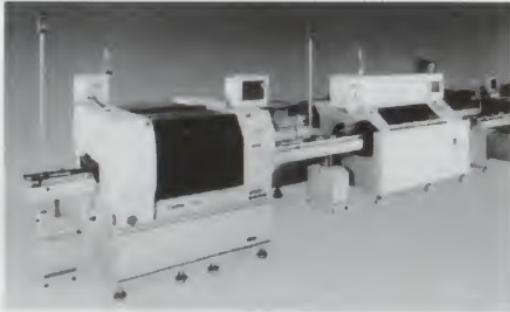
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The Colophon

Merrillville High School is a registered member of Quill & Scroll, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Indiana High School Press Association. Volume 78 of the Merrillvue is entitled "Overflow." Co-Editors Damara Hamlin and Kate Santeramo led the staff, which met daily during the second hour period under the guidance of the adviser, Mrs. Teresa Procter.

Prices of the 2003 yearbook started at \$35 from October 14, 2002, to November 27, 2002. The price increased at an interval of \$5 in the periods between November 28, 2002, to December 20, 2002, and January 6, 2003, to April 1, 2003. An additional \$5 fee was charged to students who wanted their books mailed to their homes.

Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke is the sales representative for Walsworth Publishing Company, which published *Merrillhue*.

The staff used Adobe Pagemaker, Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Word to put the book together. The staff used the following fonts throughout the book: Optima for body text and captions, Earthquake in the Lifestyles, Opening and Closing sections; Cameron Bold in the Sports section; Import Bold in the Clubs & Activities section; Cameron in the Performing Arts section; Christina Bold in the Academics section; Kent Bold in the People section; Earthquake in the Senior section; and Bracken Bold in the Advertising section.

Lifetouch Prestige Portraits took underclass and faculty photos. John Bir and his staff at John Giolas Photographers took senior portraits, sports clubs and organization photos. Ed Sablan, Rose Wilson and members of the staff also contributed to the collection of photos.

The Yearbook Staff acknowledges and appreciates the work done by Valerie T. Tanke, for answering our plentiful questions; John Bir; for the amazing pictures and portraits; Kim Shapley, for working with us in fourth hour; Jenny Heidler and Journalism classes, for proofreading and correcting copy; the Technology Department; the Athletic Department; Main Office and Guidance Department secretaries, for helping us when we needed it; Mr. Mark Ciesielski and the PNN staff, for the morning announcements and PNN commercials to advertise the 2003 Merrillvue. Thank you again.

The Staff

Front row from left: Laura Lackey, Vincent Torres, Lindsey Gabriel, Damara Hamlin, Monique Navarro, Nikisha Jefferson, Kate Santeramo, Mary Kate Lucas, Casady Pruitt and Lauren Strom. Back row: Tim Balko, Dyann Segvich, Brittany Williams, Cora Gray, Lindsay Warus, Edward Sablan, Igor Ristevski and Ryan Zurek.



The Editors' Note

First and foremost, Damara and Kate would love to thank Mrs. Procter for all the trauma she put up with. She does too much for the staff and deserves a lifetime of praise. No matter what, she stayed calm and made the best of the situation. We love her eternally for all of the support and great times.

We also owe our sincerest gratitude to the staff, especially Dyann Segvich, for staying after class, coming in on break and working at Kate's house on the lap top to do the work that was not hers to begin with. Thanks, Dy! You're awesome!

To the rest of the staff, you all were wonderful and we could not have done it without you. We know it was a rocky journey, but we got through it and the book is one of the best and most original of MHS history.

Thank you to all of the teachers and students who had to deal with interruptions and answered infinite questions to help us out! A special thanks to Mrs. Rose Wilson for taking pictures for us. Thank you all!

To next year's staff, we want to wish you the best of luck. Just know that this is not an easy job and make the best of it!

Sincerely,

Damara Hamlin and Kate Santeramo, Co-Editors 2003



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